

# ACORN

XIII. 1



The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Inc. Newsletter

Spring 1988



# ACORN, XIII-1

SPRING 1988

## The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Inc.

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Telephone (416) 367-8075

A society incorporated in 1933 for the preservation of the best examples of the architecture of the province, and for the protection of its places of natural beauty.

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### Cover Photograph:

Sora Brook, Port Britain, Ontario  
with the kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. R.J.W. Sculthorpe.

P.J.S. photograph 11 March 1988

## EDITORIAL

Friday, the 11th of March, and the editorial, like some submissions of news, is late. It is late winter still by the calendar and we have been battling, like many of you, the dreary on-and-off winter weather and other sensations which plague us and often depress us from time to time. Like the confrontation with the angels of mercy supposedly helping us to conserve our built heritage who so often turned out to be more devil's advocates. Their role is honest and pure and certainly avoids any misappropriation of the lean funds available in the field, but by the same token probably encourages the odd door slamming in the face, so that a bloodied nose may be the result, not for the operator who, growling, may say good riddance to the hassle, but to the facilitator who might have guided proposed modifications at least along sympathetic lines. A reliance upon documentary evidence is a sound practice, but without such evidence sometimes a gap has to be bridged. That takes courage, much soul-searching and not only competent professional assistance but a sympathetic attitude to the case in hand. Perhaps it is time to review the approach so that at least the professional help needed to make the proper step is paid for even if the actual physical project is not. Otherwise there are going to be many mutilations on someone's conscience.

We are not, however, condoning "earlying-up", the trade term for giving a building detail prior to its construction. Nor do we support cosmetic changes of "Snap-in-Georgians", a name given by our architect friend, David Molesworth, to the grille inserts to decorate plain-pane windows, which so often create "flat-square" shapes instead of the tall rectangular proportion of the neo-Classic. More of the same includes "paneful" windows, so much beloved in older places, Niagara-on-the-Lake not excluded, and shutters nailed to the wall which don't fit the sash opening, or two carriage lamps at every entrance begging for a pair of wheels or a four-in-hand to carry them off. Nevertheless when a porch was added in Renaissance times to Oxford's Gothic St. Mary's Church, it was of its period, namely Baroque, and now several centuries later it looks at home. And so we stray back on to the track, almost inadvertently, of a rather current philosophy of building conservation - save the lot including the warts. We are depressed again: when will sensibility return.

But the sun is warm: a robin sang nearby today, the red-wing blackbird scouts chorused their strange and unmistakable gurgling whirr, the cardinal once more operatic, as the ice cakes beached on the banks of the brook dripped away and the sweet smell of long-cooled earth warmed up to the nostrils. The ponies knew it was a great day and cantered up the valley to graze above the house. Sora Brook, bathed in fresh clear sunlight and framed in the gnarled trunks of a stream-side willow was the glory of the scene, speaking of the people who gave it life, away just then, their spirit still there, as all who visit this peaceful place do so enjoy.

So despite the winter, the spring is just about to come. Spirits are renewed to tackle the dismal by-products of people's unkindness to people and their heritage, and even to architects and their work. How often has a designer been neglected when a building is changed, even during that designer's lifetime. The result is usually mediocre if mercifully not a mutilation. Yes, one becomes depressed by the acres of 'municipal plywood', that positively vile coverall in vertically-jointed drab brown, sometimes imitated in wood-grained wallboard. Until in furious reaction one sweeps it all away in one's mind and cumbersome changes with it to reveal once again the simpler purity of the original building solution. The purge complete one can start to think, to imagine and to create again. The soul revives, and the chances of an old building also, but still there is much convincing of the less-than-enthusiastic to bring its revival about.

Spring is about to come: I am glad to be alive.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The following is the text of a letter we sent to Mr. Greg Baeker, the Executive Director of the Ontario Heritage Policy Review, on the 1st of October last year.

"At our meeting of August 27 with Robert Montgomery and Donna Baker at your offices the question of the rôle of The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario was discussed at length. This was subsequently brought to the attention of the Advisory Board of the Conservancy at their August 29 meeting. After much discussion the following resolution was passed by the Advisory Board and later in the afternoon the same motion was ratified at a meeting of the Provincial Council:

*"Whereas the primary rôle of The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario is the preservation of the best examples of architecture in the Province, and to protect its places of natural beauty, be it resolved that the Advisory Board wishes to stimulate the enthusiasm of the citizens of Ontario for their architectural and landscape heritage by developing a province-wide inventory of significant buildings and landscapes; such task to be funded by the income from a Trust Fund set up for this purpose".*

Council believes that establishment of a provincial list of monuments is of primary importance and that the carrying out of this task could be one of our major efforts over the next decade. This is obviously a Herculean task, and will require much more effort than can be put together by volunteer organization. Professional assistance and the services of a full-time co-ordinator will be required if the effort is to succeed.

It was recommended that volunteer teams be set up to analyse the building stock in defined areas of the Province. It is intended that preliminary research and documentation would be done by local volunteer teams or from existing documentation. Once base information was gathered, a team of volunteer experts from the Conservancy Advisory Board would be sent into the region to assess the information in-situ and produce final recommendations. This would be done over a weekend period. The refined information would be brought back to the co-ordinator to compile.

By using this basic method it is hoped that over a period of years all areas of the Province could be covered and a relatively uniform standard of assessment be made. Most importantly: the listing would be done by an independent body at arms length from the government.

This is all very sketchy and perhaps overly ambitious at the moment, but we believe that it is within the realm of possibility.

Ideally a substantial grant from the government would be required to provide a continuing source of income to pay the salary of the co-ordinator, a student assistant, and the expenses of the volunteer teams. The work would be based at the Heritage Centre in the ACO offices.

We hope that this will serve as a basis for further discussion between the Ministry and the Architectural Conservancy, and look forward to further dialogue in the near future."

It seems the 'vibes' of ACO corresponded with those of the Ministry equally concerned with the subject. So Jean Simonton from the Heritage Administration Branch is now engaged on a study in depth of the inventory process, the essential procedures, the necessary criteria and comparisons with other jurisdictions with similar experience. Her task is to develop a sound footing for the establishment of a provincial inventory. Yet we understand the Ministry was interested in our cooperation ultimately and was pleased to have our proposal for participation on record. Therefore we await the results of the study: our offer of service still stands.



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## BRANCH NEWS FROM EAST TO WEST

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### QUINTE REGION BRANCH

#### Past Events

Our Annual General Meeting was held January 17th, at Glanmore House (The Hastings County Museum) in Belleville, drawing a crowd of about 35 members and visitors. A tour of the museum was conducted, followed by our meeting and a pot-luck dinner. During the course of the meeting a new executive was elected, with yet a few posts to be filled.

Our February walking tour took place at the Belleville Armouries, and was conducted by Captain Robert Bradford, of the Hastings/Prince Edward Regiment. Of special interest is the effort to retain the architectural integrity of the historic building, both interior and exterior. Several attempts have been made to encroach upon the drill hall with 'temporary' structures, but fortunately the authorities have been convinced (for now) that the drill hall is intended as open space and serviceable only if retained as such. Presently one corner of the hall has been cut into, with uncomplimentary results. Few changes have occurred to the integrity of the building, and the attitude promoted by our tour conductor is akin to our own efforts of preservation.

#### Conservation News

There has been a request by John Harney, present owner of the 'Old Stone Mill' at Glenora, for de-designation of the property, which is currently for sale. Fortunately, the Prince Edward County LACAC wisely decided not to repeal the designating by-law, "due to the inherent architectural and historical significance of the structure". The original four-storey section, built circa 1806, figures prominently in the illustration in Belden's Atlas (1878), with gable facing the bay. Lean-to additions on either side occurred later, with the westernmost extended in this century, adopting a gambrel roof. Prominently located it forms an obvious and striking gateway to Prince Edward County, and with the Loyalist Parkway study nearing completion, several recommendations have been made for this property.



The Belleville Armouries.

However, upon investigation, there appears to be some discrepancy as to the zoning of the property. One report has listed this as high-density residential, while another uncredited report suggests mixed use, i.e., commercial and residential. Whatever becomes of the property it is sincerely hoped that public access to the property may be encouraged to some

degree, and that the new use of the property will respect the tranquil and unspoiled nature of Glenora. For further study of the history of the development of Glenora, refer to *The Settler's Dream* (pp 35-40).

#### Trenton; Restoration of Town Hall

Peter Stokes will soon be presenting his report to the Trent Port Historical Society regarding restoration of the exterior of this important building, as well as recommending possible uses for the interior. The building, originally the Town Hall, as designed by Kivas Tully, later became the Trenton Police Station, but has come under the watchful eyes of the Historical Society since 1981 when the police headquarters were relocated.

Our own previous president, Alex Herlovitch, while City planner for Trenton, has made reports on the building, and correspondence with Anthony Adamson has yielded a line drawing of how the building would have appeared, complete



Van Alstine Mill from 1806 at Stone Mills, Glenora, Ontario. View from the ferry dock showing the oldest gable-roofed section to the left, with its hoistway doors with a single window to each side, four storeys and an attic high.

with wooden pilasters extending the two stories in height (since removed). Many important details still are evident, such as the decorative ear mouldings, six-over-six pane windows. But the present bold eaves returns are all that survives of the original pediments for the frieze below continues, uninterrupted, across both gable ends. A south wing was also added later and the arcade surrounding it, now partly filled in on the north side, has been removed elsewhere.

### The Cablevue Building, Belleville

The latest proposal in the ongoing (and often frustrating) negotiations between City Council, private developers, and an ever-growing number of private citizens about the future of this worthy main street block appears to be the most promising yet.

Mr. Peter J. Fiander of MF Associates of Kingston has proposed to retain the façade of the building, demolish the remainder (which is reported to be structurally unsound), apply for designation of the façade, and rebuild the three stories behind, to accommodate commercial and residential space, with the possible inclusion of a 'heritage inn'. Also proposed in the plan is a stacked parking garage in the vacant lot to the north, thereby once again completing the unity of buildings along Belleville's main street. Needless to say, there is some skepticism as to the



The Cablevue Building, Belleville.

design of a parking garage as it relates to neighbouring buildings, but it should be a simple task if handled with creativity rather than with a restrained budget. (However, this branch editor cannot bring to mind a modern parking garage that could be termed aesthetically pleasing.)

### Coming Events

Our series of Third-Sunday Walking-Tours continues on March 20th with a comparison of Church Architecture in Belleville.

On April 17th, our tour will focus on

the architecture in Picton Harbour. We are considering chartering a tour boat (pending agreeable spring conditions on the bay) as part of our excursion. Because of the volume of members and visitors we expect to attract, tickets must be reserved in advance.

In May, due in part to the timing of the ACO AGM in London on the third Sunday, our walking tour will take place the following Sunday, May 22nd, where we will look at industrial complexes in Cannifton.

## PORT HOPE

### Programmes

The October programme featured a slide talk by Peter Stokes, which was an eye-opener for many of us who attended. Buildings which Port Hoppers had taken for granted took on new meaning. John Street alone, has buildings in a mixture of styles representing neo-Classical, Greek revival, and Italianate architecture.

Mr. Stokes pointed out the rarity of straight-through intersections in Port Hope's downtown area. He illustrated through his slides, that this feature allows buildings to be seen from a long distance. Both Queen and John Streets are examples of this phenomenon, where they meet

with Walton. As well, Mr. Stokes pointed out that many of the town's downtown buildings have rounded corners to compensate for the fact that few of the streets join at exact right angles.

Another interesting fall programme was given by Margaret McBurney and Mary Byers at the time of the launching of their book *Tavern in the town*. The significance of the tavern in the mid 1800s was very different from today. The times were hard, populations small, and distilleries were plentiful. In consequence, amenities were not luxurious, the food rather poor, and alcoholic drink - a problem. Examples abound in Ontario of these interesting old inns, even today. In many cases, the town has almost disappeared and the inn has

remained as a reminder of those days when the inn was a meeting place, a shelter for the traveller, or a place to conduct court proceedings.

The January programme featured Spencer Higgins who spoke on *Advanced Masonry Restoration: Grouting and Terra-cotta Repair*. Mr. Higgins, an A.C.O. Ontario Council vice-president, made the subject fascinating.

### Annual general meeting

The Carlyle Restaurant (Bank of Upper Canada building of old) was the setting for a well-attended annual general meeting on Heritage Day, February 15. The Heritage Award, presented annually, went to Mary Ellen Chapple, Jane Staunton,

and Roderick Stewart for their work on the Conservation District Study.

Following the election of directors and officers, the members were given the opportunity to hear about the downtown Façade Study from three people who worked on the project - Craig Sims, Lily Inglis and Rod Stewart, project manager. The study focussed on twelve downtown buildings, and the resultant manual which was produced for each building. This manual - a compendium of information both historical and structural - gives proposals for façade improvements and building maintenance, to guide present and future owners, in language useful also to tradesmen. Guidelines, as developed for the manuals, have been drafted with specific reference to the Heritage Fund guidelines of the Ministry of Citizenship & Culture. It is to be hoped that as these buildings become designated,\* they will then qualify for the appropriate grants.

The costs of the Façade Study were shared by L.A.C.A.C., A.C.O. Port Hope, and the Ontario Heritage Foundation. However, the study is just the first step in preserving and enhancing our fine downtown streetscape, and A.C.O. members were urged to take a leadership role to bring the desired end about.

\*Either designated individually or as part of the completed Heritage District Plan, still to be passed by Town Council and the O.M.B.

### Special events

An interesting fund-raiser was a first time event for A.C.O. in conjunction with Old Tyme Christmas festivities. Nola and Ian Macdonald's heritage house on Dorset Street was decorated in a Victorian Christmas theme by Kathryn McHolm, and opened to ticket holders from 1 - 5 p.m. on December 12th. This successful event bears repeating another year.

### Wesleyville Church

Peter Stokes was commissioned by Port Hope A.C.O. to do a study on the disused Church and make recommendations to the United Church Presbytery, Save the Wesleyville Church Committee and the Church trustees.

The report which has now been completed, recommended that work be done

to make the church secure and weather-proof immediately, before mothballing it until a future use can be determined.

### A "pink and blue carbuncle"?

There is no doubt that Port Hope's new Chamber of Commerce and Motor Vehicle Licensing Bureau, is the most talked about building in town.

Formerly a concrete block garage, the cheerful blue and pink painted building commands a prominent position on the gore at the junction of Barrett and Ontario streets on the periphery of the business section. While it is somewhat anachronistic in its setting among heritage buildings on both these streets, its owner/renovator maintains that it serves its purpose for the moment.

Called everything from a "1930s hair-dressing salon" to a "pink and blue carbuncle," the building is getting lots of attention and fulfilling its purpose. Besides, it is very agreeable inside, and its clock has the time of day for everyone. In addition, there's lots of free parking space.

### Port Hope Heritage Fund

The Heritage Committee processed applications for loans and grants from the fund in 1987. On their recommendation, four applicants were deemed eligible for funds - three private houses, and one commercial property on Walton St.

Total funds requested from the four applications amounted to \$179,000. To meet the province's guidelines, 30% of the

fund had to be granted or lent by the end of 1987, for restoration only. To that end, A.C.O. approved \$8,000 in grants, and \$31,925 in loans at 6% to the four property owners.

### Heritage District Fire Alarm System

Restoration architect Chris Borgal brought an interesting proposal to the attention of the A.C.O. executive at a meeting in the fall. He suggested that Port Hope's A.C.O. initiate a pilot project for the insuring and safety of blocks of heritage buildings in the downtown area.

A.C.O. Port Hope has already begun to sound out building owners, an insurance company, the Town and the fire department, with favourable responses from all. A.C.O. may allocate funds for such a project and a committee will be struck.

### CN Station

The recently restored CN Station has been popular and is in greater use as a result of the late afternoon stop (Toronto/-Port Hope) which was put into effect two years ago. Sad to say, the station is also popular with vandals and VIA is working on better security for the station.

### House Tour

The financial report of the 1987 house tour showed revenues of over \$16,000, one of the highest returns ever. The tour committee and its chairmen, Margaret Spragge and Lee Proctor, are to be congratulated for such a successful event.



Port Hope Chamber of Commerce.

Photo courtesy of Larry Hall and The Evening Guide.



## DURHAM

The Durham Branch can report a rather surprising shift over the last year or so in the prevailing attitude towards heritage preservation, particularly at the political level. As little as a year ago the idea of district designation in the downtown core was a not-in-my-lifetime kind of scenario but recently at least one councillor has come out strongly in favour of the concept. One could be cynical and attribute his conversion to the election year but so much the better - if he sees an election bonus in that position then perhaps others will too.

The change in attitude has been spurred by various heritage organizations like the ACO but probably the single most significant factor has been the Heritage Canada Main Street program.

Only one really significant building has been lost in the last year (Perry house - see winter issue). A couple of buildings which would have been considered goners a year ago are still standing and perhaps the attitude of destroy first, ask questions later is shifting.

Plans have been submitted for the conversion of a designated Victorian mansion in the village of Brooklin (5 mi. N of Whitby) into an alcoholic rehabilitation centre. The house, known locally as the Carnwith mansion, is the same building as is illustrated (a Walter Campbell painting) on the front cover of Heritage Canada's gift catalogue for last Christmas.

The proposal has been submitted by Renascent Centres of Toronto. The 7,000 sq. ft. house would be used to house 30 alcoholics for rotating treatment periods of 30 days. The local health council questions the need for such a facility, and local residents wonder about its impact on a community of only 1,500.

Because the building is designated the owners would have to seek approval for any changes from LACAC. Those changes would include at least four more bathrooms, more bedrooms and presumably exterior fire escapes. Whether these changes could be made without seriously damaging the historic character of the house is an open question.



Brooklin's Carnwith mansion which is proposed to be turned into an alcoholic rehabilitation centre.  
Whitby Free Press Photo

The house has been empty for two years and was listed at \$790,000; however, it is reported that the offer from Renascent was a lot less than that.

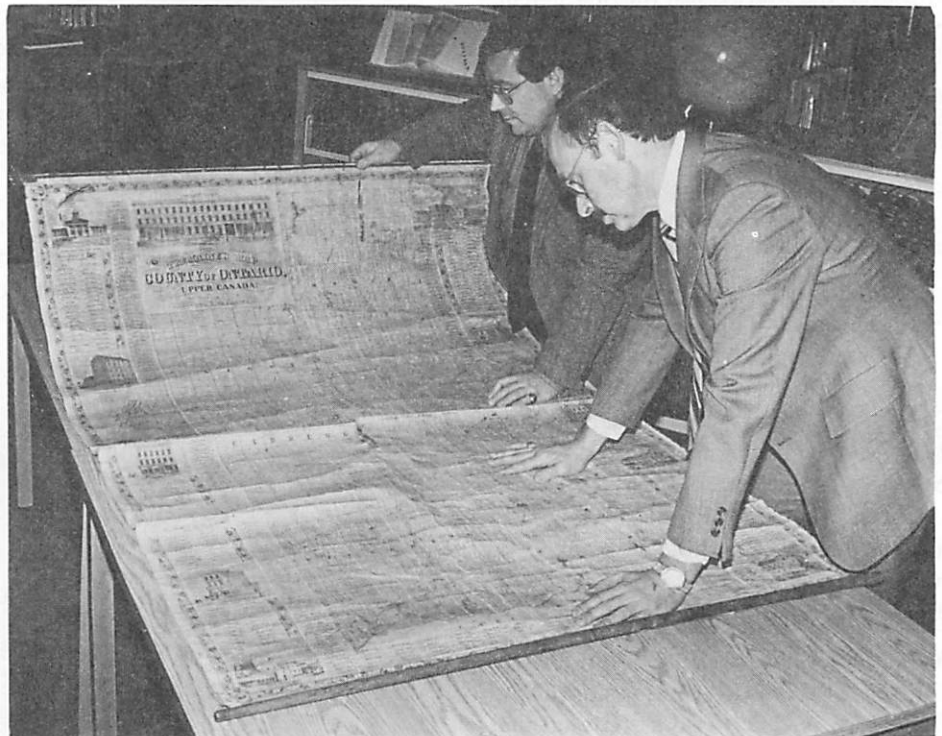
This particular house raises some troubling issues for preservationists. Houses of this magnitude are very difficult to sell as houses - their conversion to some other use is almost inevitable at some

point or other. In this particular case, a proposal for a bed and breakfast was turned down earlier on the grounds that it did not conform to the residential zoning. (Paradoxically an alcoholic rehabilitation centre appears to comply.)

Sometimes we oppose viable, though not the best, options for such buildings in hopes of something better (someone who has a few million to spare and in this case, no objection to living on a major highway). Frequently that something better is only a pipe dream and we end up with something far worse.

Ironically, the house may be 'saved' by a technicality. The water and sewage facilities for the village of Brooklin are already at capacity and unless Renascent can solve that problem, their proposal may collapse.

Cullen Gardens and miniature village has announced long-range plans for the "prettiest street in Ontario" consisting of Victorian homes "saved" from demolition. The plans have space for about sixty such



Donor Don Coukell (foreground) and branch treasurer, Rod Angevarre examine 1860 Tremaine map of Ontario County.  
Whitby Free Press Photo

buildings to be developed over several years. In his original plans, Cullen anticipated that they would all be authentic relocated buildings but has since included the possibility that many may be reproductions. Nevertheless, he has his eye on several buildings in the area and one has

to wonder at the degree to which they are being "saved".

Readers will recall that Cullen Gardens is now the site of Lynde House.

Members of the Executive are developing a series of walking tour brochures of

Whitby's core area which we hope will be available by the tourist season.

The branch has received the donation of an original 1860 Tremaine map of Ontario County. The branch intends to have it restored for permanent display in the local library.

## TORONTO REGION

### A.C.T. Lectures

Judging by the capacity audience that filled Hydro Auditorium for the January lecture on the Eaton Auditorium and the Round Room, there is a great deal of public concern and support for their survival. David Eckler discussed the career of Jacques Carlu, the noted French architect who designed this fine example of the Art Deco style. Alec Keefer, president of A.C.T. announced that a committee has been formed by the Toronto branch to work diligently to save these important interiors.

In February we were treated to an excellent and comprehensive slide lecture on the restoration of the Princes Gates at the C.N.E. by Janet F. Willings, President of the Consulting Engineering Co. in charge of the project. In 1924 the Canadian National Exhibition Board of Directors, with the official CNE Architects, Chapman and Oxley, developed a fifty year plan for the area known as Exhibition Park. A significant feature of this plan was the east end development of the site marked by a monumental entrance to link the CNE to the City of Toronto. Prior to the crash of 1929, many elements of the east end development took place, beginning with the construction of the Princes Gates in 1927. Built to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Canadian Confederation, the Gates represent the traditional triumphal arch surmounted by the Goddess of Winged Victory. Designed by Chapman and Oxley, the statuary was sculpted by Charles D. McKechnie. The statue, standing atop the gates in a small boat (the ship of state) was described by Alfred Chapman as representing "progress and advance," her purpose to guide the CNE and Canada into the future.

The gates were officially opened by H.R.H. Edward, the Prince of Wales, and his brother, Prince George, at the commencement of the 1927 CNE. First to pass through the Gates was a Veterans Parade, a tradition which has continued with the Warriors' Day Parade making their annual passage through his remaining "triumphal arch."

The speaker commented on the fact that many people refer to the Gates as the *Princess* rather than the *Princes'* Gates. She described the substantial deterioration that the Gates have undergone during their 60 year history due to their exposure to the severe conditions of Canadian winters on the Toronto waterfront. Last year, phase one of a three phase, three million dollar, major restoration project led to the replacement of the original concrete statue of "Winged Victory." Thanks to modern technology the replica can better cope with the severe temperature and humidity changes and is predicted to last over one hundred years.

In March we look forward to *Cobourg, A Forgotten Town*, an illustrated lecture to be given by Robert Mikel who presently is on the staff of the Toronto Historical Board. Robert Mikel had the good fortune to grow up in one of Cobourg's stately homes. Early on he realized the importance of Cobourg's architectural heritage - the houses and the people who lived in them. In the late spring Mr. Wm. Dendy will conduct a walking tour. It will start at De La Salle Oaklands and end at the Massey quadrangle at Upper Canada College. *Highrises*, apartments from the 1930s to the present will be featured.

The regular April meeting, on the 17th at 3:00 p.m., will be held at Hydro Auditorium. The speaker is Sally Gibson. Her topic is *Toronto Islands - More Than*

*Islands*. The Toronto branch AGM will precede this lecture.

While it is difficult to gauge the success of A.C.T. lectures in making people more aware of their local heritage, the January meeting produced a tangible result. The original organ from the Eaton Auditorium was given to A.C.T.

### Award of Merit

Garth Drabinsky of Cineplex Odeon has won Architectural Conservancy Toronto's Award of Merit for restoring part of the old Pantages Theatre on Victoria Street. The award was reported in the Toronto Star on February 19th.

Built in 1920 and designed by the renowned architect Charles Lamb, the Pantages was renamed the Imperial shortly afterwards. Cineplex Odeon acquired the eastern half of the cinema, restored it and reopened it last December. The work was done by architect David Mesbur and engineer Peter Kofman.

### John Duncan Home Gets a Reprieve

On February 8, 1988 at 8 p.m. the council of the City of North York voted (13 to 3) to allow councillor Joan King to negotiate with the North York Board of Education concerning the subject building. This was a reversal of the position council took in November of 1987 for demolition of the structure. The building could be located under this scheme a few yards from its original site on land owned by the Board of Education where it would be operated by them as a classroom/museum. Insurance funds available are to be utilized in its restoration. A deal is to be concluded involving Mr. A. Gorizzan who will assist in the rebuilding process after a small parcel of land located elsewhere in North York is transferred to Perwick Investment.

This deal is subject to three time constraints. The North York Board of Education must be approached concerning the project at its meeting in March. The John Duncan House must be located on its new site by July 1, 1988 and restoration must be completed by November 1, 1988.

The Conservancy wishes to convey its sincere appreciation to all the friends of the Duncan House who have worked so hard to advance the cause. The Toronto and Region Branch has volunteered to assist in the ongoing discussions. Mr. R. Sculthorpe, Chairman has communicated that should economic enticement be necessary to save the building, he would convene the ACO's Heritage Fund Board to discuss their potential involvement. We'll keep you posted!

#### **A.C.T., O.M.B. Wychwood Park**

In May of 1987, A.C.T. executive voted that an Award of Merit be offered to the Trustees of Wychwood Park for successfully obtaining the first Heritage Conservation District in the City of Toronto. When we made the offer we were unaware that no local mechanics were in place to

administer sanely the Heritage Act.

While we remain most appreciative of the huge amount of time and effort that have gone into the Park's designation, we feel that the struggle around the proposed development of the lot to the east of the main entrance has resulted in an unacceptable compromise. So concerned was the Toronto branch executive about the ramifications of this project that we made an appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board.

We trust that the distemper that resulted from this controversial building scheme will lead to the instituting of a strong, fair and meaningful process to contain disputes and to direct property owners. On that day A.C.T. will gladly renew our offer of an Award.

The Conservancy wishes to express its sincere appreciation to all our friends who supported our position. Special mention must be made of the significant role of Mr. Peter John Stokes at the O.M.B. stage. Further A.C.T. wishes to commend the efforts of all the conservationists in Niagara-on-the-Lake as they face off with other opponents of "The District Designate".

#### **HAMILTON-NIAGARA**

With recent additions to the executive the Hamilton-Niagara Branch bounded into the New Year full of good intentions with promises to make 1988 a revival year for the fortunes of this relatively small branch. An increase in board members permitted us to strike a number of sub-committees with specific tasks and duties including membership, newsletter, advocacy, and workshop. Many hands do indeed make light work!

Plans are well underway to hold our second annual restoration workshop. The success of the first workshop buoyed our spirits tremendously last year and we look forward to an equally successful event this year. Unable to schedule the workshop for Heritage Week the Branch is looking towards the end of March as a suitable time. Once again, emphasis will be on

home restoration and renovation, with speakers drawn from a variety of fields.

Although the Hamilton-Niagara region still suffers from all those ills that constantly plague conservation groups there continues to be good news. Hamilton, which came within a whisker of losing its Carnegie Library, is at last seeing the benefits of those concerted efforts to save this fine building. A modern addition to the rear is taking shape, in a relatively complimentary manner, to serve as new court and office space for the Unified Family Court. The Library building continues to serve a useful public by providing commodious space with fine interior detailing that would not be found in a contemporary office building of the provincial government.

Additionally, Branch members have been heartened by the news that a dev-

#### **A.C.T. Nominees Win Parks Canada Heritage Awards**

In the fall of 1987, A.C.T. nominated *Ms. Patricia Foran, Deputy City Solicitor and Mr. Steven Offer, M.M.P. Mississauga* for the Parks Canada Heritage Award for their role in the formulation and subsequent passage of PR Bill 57 which guarantees demolition control for designated buildings in the City of Toronto.

On February 14, 1988 in Saint John, New Brunswick the Hon. Tom McMillan, Minister of the Environment, announced that our two candidates had been successful.

We fervently hope that Parks Canada will allow A.C.T. to repeat the ceremony in the City of Toronto, preferably inside a significant historic site. A.C.T. has offered to co-host this event which we feel is necessary to gain the media's attention and bolster the preservation movement.

A.C.T. pursued this award for our candidates in order to obtain *nationwide* publicity for this innovative strategy (i.e. using the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, through the City of Toronto Act, as a way of legislating conservation).

Warm Congratulations go out to Patricia and Steven.

eloper (from Toronto of all places!!) intends to utilize the rather grand and palatial Bank of Montreal building as an equally grand two-storey lobby area to a new office building to be constructed at the rear. Both these developments, at the former library and bank buildings, appear to be of considerably greater success than the mere façadism rampant in Toronto.

The Branch continues to provide comment and input to a variety of provincial agencies and ministries' planning activities. We recently responded to the Niagara Escarpment Commission concerning a proposed mini hydro generating station in a particularly scenic area of the Escarpment above Dundas at Websters Falls. While noting that we were a conservator group ourselves and not opposed in principle to such developments we felt the proposal to be out of keeping with such a



scenic locale.

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation also sought our input into the long awaited extension of the Highway 403 Ancaster to Brantford link. A number of farmhouses and buildings seem to have inadvertently strayed into the path of this juggernaut and consequently must be removed. We will be advising on appropriate mitigation measures.

The Hamilton-Region Conservation Authority is taking an ever-increasing role in heritage conservation. It has recently commissioned a feasibility study of conserving the former Canada Crushed Stone plant, the remnants of which are perched on the side of the Niagara Escarpment above Dundas. This is a particularly important example of industrial 'architecture' and the results of the study are eagerly awaited.

While some things go well in Dundas it is not always the case. After nearly three years of concerted efforts to save the CN-VIA train station the Dundas Heritage Association was extremely disappointed in the demise of this much abused building. Adding insult to injury - the station had been torched occasionally - the structure was finally deemed unsafe on attempting to move it to a new site and was promptly demolished.

A final word. Hamilton, besides being the donut capital of the world, appears to be the sand-blasting capital of Ontario. Besides doing obvious and irrevocable

damage to brickwork, local realtors continue to vaunt the attributes of this process: "Recently sandblasted" typifies many ads. Have any other communities come across this lemming-like behaviour?

Meanwhile in the Niagara Peninsula the smouldering embers of progress, being fanned by development and threatening to consume that remarkable historic resource, the old Town of Niagara, now part of the municipality of Niagara-on-the-Lake, have produced a lot of smoke recently in the media, as you may have noticed. But where there is smoke surely there is still fire, though in this case the local Chamber of Commerce believes such expressions of warning and doom deserve a P.R. campaign to counter such "negative attitude", thinking such cold water will douse the problem. The fire will rage on and a strong counter-burn is providing heat to contain the menace. Recently formed by a group of local citizens and looking for support also elsewhere, The Niagara-on-the-Lake Conservancy now has over 200 members, and for its principal object, the proper management of this unique resource, known as old Niagara-on-the-Lake, its conservation considered to be a public trust. Already it has supported in principle other groups such as S.O.D.A. (Save Our Dock Area), battling commercial rezoning of residential property to permit the expansion of a local hotel, despite the Town's Secondary Plan of the area maintaining the residential character of the

neighbourhood. The suggestion that fifty rooms is the least that will make a hotel operation economically sound belies the fact that many successful smaller enterprises operated on a more personal basis make very good business sense. It is a question of scale and the preference of the visitor to the old town, most of whom enjoy the place for its quiet peaceful atmosphere, its intimacy and charm that family-run operations with a real stake in the community can foster. This indeed would be a better balance to the day-tourists or "trippers" who wear out this vital part of our heritage.

Incidentally you may wonder why it is a conservancy. That is a very good description, like our own, now going for fifty-five years, which suggests the idea of an authority or commission, that is a group committed, to the idea of conservation. The Niagara-on-the-Lake Conservancy travels in good company. If you wish to add your support, send a letter saying so or more importantly join, for a fee of \$10.00 or a larger donation as you wish, by sending your cheque or money order with your address to:

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Conservancy  
c/o Judy MacLachlan,  
P.O. Box 771,  
Niagara-on-the-Lake,  
Ontario L0S 1J0.

Your help will be acknowledged.

## HERITAGE CAMBRIDGE



### Annual General Meeting

The restoration of the Winter Garden and Elgin Theatres in Toronto was the subject which our guest speaker, Marie Bekessy of the Ontario Heritage Foundation, addressed at the Heritage Cambridge A.G.M. on March 2nd. These two theatres, opening in 1913 and 1914 respectively, served as the Canadian flagship of the Loew's Syndicate, a vaudeville chain with over 25 theatres in New York alone. The Elgin was famed for its "neo-Classic" decor, with marble columns, gilded plasterwork, and sweeping seven-storey staircase.

The Winter Garden was designed to create the effect of an English garden in full bloom: support columns masqueraded as tree trunks, the ceiling was a tangle of boughs and leaves, and the walls were painted with all the details of a romantic garden scene.

In 1981, the theatre complex was purchased by the Ontario Heritage Foundation and when the restoration is complete will provide facilities for the performing arts, with 1600 seats in the Elgin Theatre and 1000 seats in the Winter Garden. What's more, this project will return to their former splendor Canada's oldest

movie palace and one of the world's last remaining roof garden theatres.

### Heritage Day in Cambridge

Heritage Week was celebrated in the Regional Municipality of Waterloo with a veritable carnival of events, but the most exciting as far as this Branch was concerned was the annual Celebration of Our Heritage hosted by the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation: it was held in Cambridge for the first time. The locale was the Mill Restaurant, which some of you will remember as the site of the Friday evening event at last year's A.C.O. Annual General Meeting.

The honoured guests of the Foundation were the owners of designated properties throughout the Region, but the guest list of over 400 included members of a variety of organizations with a current or potential interest in heritage conservation, as well as Municipal and Regional Councilors. The evening began with a visit to three of the historic churches in downtown, Knox Presbyterian, Central Presbyterian, and Trinity Anglican. Our guide was David Emberly, a student of church architecture and liturgy.

Meanwhile, a mini-trade fair was underway at the Mill. The building restoration industry was represented by Summit Restoration, Gotham Architectural Ornament, Industrial Conservation Products, James Duench Woodworking, Forge & Anvil, Artifacts Architectural Antiques, Bird Barrier Systems, New England Slate, I.K. Woods Chartered Surveyors. Three artists displayed their works and were on hand to talk about them. These were Ron Kropf of Wellesley, Tim Moriarity of Paris, and Heather Franklin of Cambridge. Words Worth Books of Waterloo brought a large selection of their stock.

Heritage organizations from the Region represented by displays were the Homer Watson House Foundation, the Waterloo Historical Society the Heritage Resources

Centre of the University of Waterloo, Heritage Cambridge, and the Historic Sites Dept. of the Region, which operates Doon Heritage Crossroads and Schneider Haus. Strolling entertainment was provided by "The Chord Spinners" and "Overall Sound", and fabulous food by the Mill Restaurant.

### Community Heritage Fund

This program was set up by the Ministry as the fourth component of BRIC, allowing private non-profit organizations to make loans or loan guarantees to restoration projects or to purchase, restore, and resell heritage properties. Heritage Cambridge decided to pursue the latter course



89 Grand Avenue South in the Galt section of Cambridge.



89 Grand Avenue South: porch detail.

with its Fund, and with the purchase in October, 1987, of 89 Grand Ave. South, our first project was underway. This 1850s stone cottage has an interesting history and many architectural features of merit, but the aspect which has generated the most excitement both in Cambridge and at the Ministry is the presence of a series of paintings on the ceilings and upper walls of some of the rooms. Our researcher, Justine Murdie, is preparing a report on the subject for the next issue of Acorn.

### Architectural Awards Competition

Heritage Cambridge has announced a competition for meritorious restorations, preservation, and sensitive adaptations of the architecture of the Cambridge area. The purpose of this program is to broaden public understanding and appreciation of the city's rich architectural heritage and to



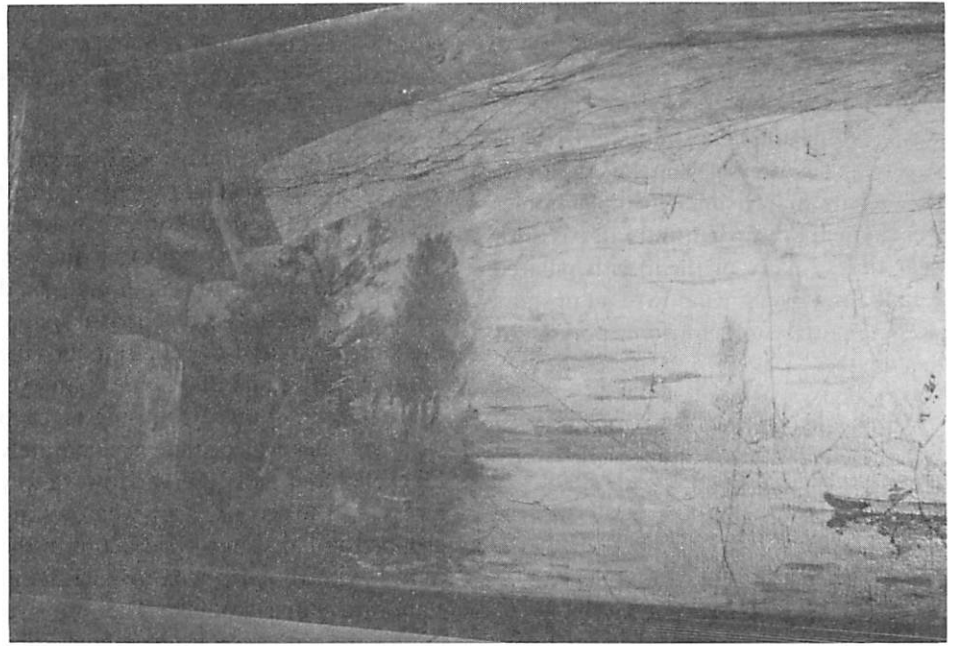
89 Grand Avenue South, ceiling painting.

encourage or recognize outstanding contributions.

The categories for which awards are being offered are: Private Residential, Commercial, Institutional, and Architectural.

## BRANT COUNTY

Brant County Branch, recently sponsored a number of heritage-related activities. The group met at Brant Avenue United Church, where slides of the Brant, William, Albion and Pearl Street area were shown. Refreshments were served, and a display was mounted of photographs of the area. The work of the Conservancy was outlined in a board display with tape explanation. Sales items and previous walking-tour maps were available. Maps, photographs, and an identification quiz were distributed. Driving tours were available, as well as walking tours guided by Donald Pettitt and Audrey Scott. Assisting with details were Julie Kovacs, Treasurer, Marianne Cahill, Secretary, Ken Elliott, Councillor and Advisory Board member Paul Vandervet. Alan Scott, President, looked after the display centre. Photographers for the occasion were Agnes Whittaker, Violet Fair, David



Detail of wall painting barely visible in lower section of ceiling view.

tural Detail. Interiors are eligible as well as exteriors. Our panel of expert judges consists of Dr. Lynne DiStefano, Associate Professor of Canadian Architecture and Design at Brescia College, University of Western Ontario, George Kapelos,

Heritage Planner, and Wendy Shearer, Landscape Architect and historic sites consultant. The judging will take place in May. All this has been organized by the team of Jim Quantrell and Ross Wilson of Heritage Cambridge.

Sharpe and Audrey Scott. Donna Baker, President of the Ontario Council, was present.

The group was interested in the variety of residential styles in the area, and in the mixture of industrial, park and residential land uses. Elaborate homes exist cheek-by-jowl with simple cottages. Some structures appear to have been built with commercial expansion in view. There are townhouses, corner stores, terrace-like structures, lots wide and narrow. There is a Synagogue, a Roman Catholic rectory and former school, a busy high school, a funeral home and a nursing home in the area bounded by Brant, West, Pearl and the railroad tracks. Within a few blocks are several ethnic halls (modern), and churches, Anglican, Roman Catholic and United. On Brant Avenue there are doctors, lawyers, and commercial establishments of various sorts. Nearby are at least two modern apartment blocks, a

medical centre, an industrial area and a lumber yard. Within a few blocks we find a microcosm of urban society, an entire neighbourhood in fact.

With the exception of the modern buildings, the area looks much as it must have done about 1920. Some early buildings, mostly cottages, which received neighbours within twenty years, outline the area before 1850, especially on Pearl and Albion. A great surge of building followed Brantford's expansion in the 1870s and 80s. Many of these later structures are in the Italianate style, inspired by Renaissance palaces in Italy, villas in Tuscany, and Queen Victoria's summer house on the Isle of Wight. In 1890 an irregular and elaborate "Queen Anne Revival" style emerged, with houses shouldering up to the earlier buildings. Also popular in Brantford at that time were "neo-Romanesque" structures, even modest houses, with detailing in red,



contrasting with the "white" or buff brick of walls, brick mouldings over semi-circular window and door openings, large main-floor windows and arched entranceways. To fill some gaps remaining in the streetscape, particularly on the side streets between the main avenues, simpler homes were built in Edwardian and First-World-War times, many of them with pillared verandahs, dormer windows and upstairs sleeping porches or sunrooms popular at this time.



26 William Street, home of Mrs. Alexandra Johnston.

One of the highlights of the tour much enjoyed by all who took part, was a visit to Mrs. Alexandra Johnston at 26 William St. This villa style home was built about 1881 and was duplexed in the 1960s. A B.R.I.C. grant was used to replace the front porch. The original high ceilings have been retained with gracious living areas in hall, drawing room and bedroom.

Kitchen, den and bath have been modernized, as has the dining room. There is a new addition to the rear with a gracious family room.

The rear of Mrs. Johnston's home at 26 William has this year had its environment slashed with the demolition of heritage structures on Brant Avenue to make way for a commercial strip (a "mini-mall") and accompanying traffic. If one can ignore this intrusion and concentrate on the interior and façade, the home is an eye-catcher with double frontispieces each with low classical pediment elaborately bracketed and bull's-eye window, deeply recessed. The second floor windows are grouped in pairs on the sides and in the centre, with rounded window-heads and elaborate hood-moulds. The door is impressive with recessed vestibule, sidelights and panels surrounded by a rounded arch. Pine floors remain in dining room and drawing room. Here the tall windows and ceilings emphasize the gracious proportions of the interior. There is a graceful hall staircase which is set off by a beautiful sideboard. Other interesting pieces are a four-poster bed and full-sized wardrobe in the bedroom, dining room buffet, and drawing room chairs.

Another William Street home of interest is "Lawfield", number 25. Now owned by the Canadian Red Cross, this "Queen Anne Revival" building is somewhat denuded of its original glamour. However the startling roof-peaks remain, with their steep gables indicating an irregular plan.

There are tall chimneys rising above the roofline, and windows on all façades in an asymmetrical arrangement. A special feature is the William Street entrance, where decorative capitals top granite pilasters flanking a steep Gothic arch.



"Lawfield", 25 William Street now the Canadian Red Cross office.

40 William and 128 William are cottages which form an interesting comparison. Number 40 is smooth, polished, refined. Like 128, it has a Gothic Revival gable centre-front and a later porch, with simple slender pillars, protecting the central door. There are shutters flanking narrow, tall windows, a rectangular gable window in the Gothic opening and an elaborate door with sidelights and elliptical transom. The cottage is large, with rear extension and verandah. The grounds are beautifully landscaped with a glory of flowers in summer.



40 William Street.



128 William Street.



**Dr. Anthony Adamson**

one of our original Charter Members, writes this appeal

*Designations, listings, LACACS, Conservation Districts, Heritage Easements, Review Boards, Special air credits for historic buildings, the Ontario Heritage Act, Heritage Canada, Awards, the Ontario Heritage Foundation etc.*

## WHO STARTED ALL THIS?

You know the answer. We did! Fifty odd years ago.

### THE ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVANCY OF ONTARIO

Let us be proud of our historic achievement, but don't let us stop.

We are non-government, non profit citizenry well rooted in every area of Ontario, and there is lots left to do in support of rational conservation.

But we need resources, we need the help of members. We need money.

We have never made a direct membership appeal for our own operational costs, our office, our magazine, our phone, our secretary, the assistance we give to branches, and the assistance needed where there are no branches.

If every member gave \$1.00 for each decade of our work

**We could raise \$7,200.00**

If every member gave 25 cents for every year we have been supporting and building up the whole conservation process

**We could raise \$18,000.00**

If every member gave a whole dollar for each of our 50 odd years

**We could raise \$72,000.00**

And if there were generous people who gave say, one hundred dollars, they might offset the number of people who just don't read letters like this one but please don't YOU be one of those people who neglects or forgets.

You get an income tax deduction



Please return to:

**The Architectural Conservancy  
of Ontario Inc.**  
10 Adelaide St. East.,  
Toronto, Ont. M5C 1J3

**YES!** I wish to support the ACO office

I will give \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Now. My cheque enclosed

☐ Tomorrow

☐ Sometime

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_

## DONORS

Dr. Anthony Adamson  
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Miss Marion MacRae  
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We hope  
you haven't forgotten us

Thank You



**Conference and Annual General Meeting  
of The Architectural Conservancy of  
Ontario (A Working Conference)**  
City of London May 13, 14, 15, 1988

The London Regional Branch of The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario invites all members to attend the Conference and Annual General Meeting of the A.C.O. to be held in London. The meeting will be held in the Monsignor Feeney Education Centre (formerly the London Normal School).

The morning will focus on reports from the branches and a preliminary report by the Intern, Mrs. Julia Beck, on the review of the Conservancy.

The afternoon will feature workshops on the conservation of Slate, Brick, The Acorn, Budgeting and Finance.

Following the afternoon program there will be a conducted walking tour through the old Middlesex County Courthouse and Historic Eldon House.

Sunday will feature a bus tour around old London, a tour of the restoration of the Old English Church, St. Thomas and a visit to the old Quaker settlement village of Sparta.

**PLAN TO ATTEND** - please send cheque payable to the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, P.O. Box 22, Station "B", London, N6A 4V3.

The deadline for pre-registration is April 11, 1988. Please register early using the attached form.

For further information contact:

Mr. Wm. E. Hitchins  
90 Huron St.,  
London, Ontario  
(519) 672-3423

**AGENDA**

Friday, May 13 - DELAWARE HALL, UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

4:00 - 10:00 Registration and billeting at Delaware Hall  
7:00 - 10:00 Ontario Council and Advisory Board reception and supper meeting at Windermere.

Saturday, May 14 - MONSIGNOR FEENEY EDUCATIONAL CENTRE

8:30 - 9:15 Registration and coffee  
9:30 - 10:00 Welcome to the Conference by the Host Club, the City of London, the A.C.O.  
10:00 - 12:00 Report from the Branches  
12:00 - 12:30 Preliminary Interns' A.C.O. Report by Mr. Roy Turner and Mrs. Julia Beck  
12:30 - 1:30 Lunch  
1:30 - 2:30 Annual General Meeting  
2:30 - 4:00 Workshops:  
Conservation of Slate Mr. Gilles Miramontes  
Conservation of Brick Mr. Spenser Higgins  
Acorn Mr. Peter Stokes  
Budget & Finance Mr. Doug McPhie  
4:30 - 6:00 Walking Tour of Old London, Restored Middlesex County Court House and Historic Eldon House

Saturday Evening - UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY CENTRE, McKELLOR ROOM, UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

6:30 - 7:30 Social Hour, Cash Bar  
7:30 - 9:30 Guest Speaker, Mrs. Nancy Tausky  
9:30 - 9:40 Invite by Next Year's President

Sunday, May 15 - DELAWARE HALL, UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

9:30 - 1:30 Bus Tour of Old London, St. Thomas historic Anglican Church, old St. Thomas, The Quaker Village of Sparta

**ACCOMMODATIONS:**

Billet, Delaware Hall	Single \$22.00 ( )
May 13 & 14	Double \$34.00 ( )
	Breakfast \$5.00 ( )
Billet, Bed & Breakfast, Private	Single \$20.00 ( )
(limited number)	Double \$30.00 ( )
May 13 & 14	

**REGISTRATION FORM**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ POSTAL CODE: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Conference Registration Fee  
(including Saturday Lunch)

Before April 11 - \$12.00  
After April 11 - \$20.00

Dinner (Advisory Board & Council, Friday Night)

\$20.00 per person

Dinner Saturday Night

\$22.00 per person

Bus Tour Sunday, includes Lunch (Min 20 persons required)

\$25.00



## CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

- Spencer Higgins - Is an architect in private practice in Toronto specializing in the restoration of historical buildings
- Peter Stokes - Is a distinguished restoration architect from Niagara-on-the-Lake
- Mr. Gilles Miramontes, Mr. Doug McPhie, Mr. Roy Turner, Mrs. Julia Beck, Mrs. Nancy Tausky

### The Heritage Fund

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Inc., in conjunction with the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Communications is now operating The Heritage Fund.

The Heritage Fund will assist in the restoration of those buildings within the Province of Ontario which have been designated or are pending designation under the Ontario Heritage Act, Part VI or V.

Funds made available will be based on the general principle that the monies will be used to conserve and restore those distinguishing features described in the designation by-law and for the structural soundness and integrity of the property.

Applications for assistance from the A.C.O. will be received at this time.

Application forms are available from Branch presidents or the Head Office, 10 Adelaide St. E., Toronto, Ontario M5C 1J3. Phone No. (416) 367-8075



The contrasting cottage at number 128 is small, old and intimate. It too has some fine flowers, this time flanking a simple door, panelled, with transom. The side windows are wider in proportion than those at number 40, and take up more of the tiny façade. As at number 40, the window panes are two-over-two, and side windows are not centred but placed closer to the door. The latter humble, the former more pretentious, two cottages with similar plan and style show the remarkable variety of this concept and its extreme adaptability.

On Pearl Street at Palace we find a former public building, now painted brown, of very fine proportions. There are five regular front bays in the brick structure, with an imposing vestibule enhanced with a double-doored entrance. A transom over the door with segmental arch is topped by a low pediment with returned eaves. The roofline of the single-story building is low, broken by a hexagonal tower on the corner. The tower has an unusual mansard roof with three small dormers. The tower and the Pearl Street



Pearl at Palace.  
Photographs by Audrey Scott.

elevation are embellished with a fretwork frieze, again of unusual design, painted yellow.

Two commercial structures, one on Pearl, the other on Albion, were found to be of considerable interest. At Pearl and

Waterloo we find one of the vanishing breed, the corner store. Its storefronts have been mutilated, so often the case nowadays, but the building retains its good proportions, Italianate roofline with brackets, a curved window on the second storey, and nicely-placed windows upstairs separated by pilasters. There is a 'tail' to the building with less design interest which serves the purpose of regularising the total proportions, as well as, of course, providing needed space.

The structure at 134 Albion is smaller, at least on the façade, and has been planned for its long, narrow lot. It is of interest as Albion is not a commercial street, yet this structure has an unused storefront, the large store window now divided, the entrance with transom above. The two windows over the storefront are of large proportions and have been emphasized by shutters. There is a low hipped roof with high chimneys. The lines are harsher than those of the Pearl Street store, but very bold and strong. Both are two-storey structures, the one with Italianate, the other with later neo-Classic



147 Brant Avenue.  
Sketches by Steve Morrey.

to and parallel with William Street, is currently being studied for the City of Brantford as a possible Heritage Conservation District by the Townpride group. Our current survey and tour again emphasized its versatility and variety. Unfortunately the southern portion has been marred by replacement structures of dubious architectural merit. A John Turner building at number 147 is unusual in that it has a Mansard roof with elaborate front dormers. There is an impressive chimney with side bay window. Recessed brick sections around the front windows, with keystones over give the façade a distinctive appearance as do the corner quoins in the prevailing "white" brick.

There are a number of Italianate residences-cum-offices on the street. One of them, number 156 is less elaborate in detail, less imposing in presentation than many of the others, but has a certain charm. Two bays forward, two back, corner quoins, paired brackets, low roofline and tall chimneys are the main features of this well-proportioned structure. Curved and segmented window-heads in the traditional arrangement are without further elaboration. The front porch appears to have been replaced, also the lower windows, and the entrance changed for a newer detail.

Brantford, like many Ontario cities, is rapidly losing much of its heritage and charm. We are fortunate that much of the city has remained for us to enjoy and study. For an interesting walking or driving tour we commend to all interested the Brant-William-Albion-Pearl Street area of the city. Maps and further information on the area can still be obtained from the Brant County Branch.

features. Both are in areas of residential development and offer a contrast to the surrounding architecture, again emphasizing the unusual interest of the William-Pearl neighbourhood.

Brant Avenue, the thoroughfare next

## NORTH WATERLOO REGION

### January Meeting

"Samuel Fry the Weaver: Textiles in Early Ontario" focussed on woven coverlets of Samuel Fry (1812-1881), a Mennonite weaver in the Vineland area. Our speaker was Eleanor Currie, vice-president of the branch, who shared her knowledge about the intricacies of looms and patterns used by professional weavers and about the Jacob Fry House, part of the Jordan Historical Museum of the Twenty. Eleanor has lectured on historic textiles and clothing at the University of Guelph; she has also been Curator at the Guelph Civic Museum and the Doon Pioneer Village. Eleanor showed several coverlets woven in Waterloo County by commercial Pennsylvania-German Mennonite weavers. In the German tradition of weaving, the use of sixteen to twenty shafts was fundamental for the weaving of the characteristic coverlets, fancy blankets, and horse blankets. The techniques used were twill diaper, occasionally doublecloth, "star and diamond", and a variety of fancy twills. Simple weaves for linen and woollen bedsheets were also produced by German-speaking weavers of Waterloo County and the Niagara Peninsula.

The name, The Twenty,\* originated in the early days when Upper Canada was being settled by Loyalists, among whom was Jacob Fry, a Pennsylvania-German Mennonite. His restored house, dating from 1815, is one of the few surviving farmhouses built in the Pennsylvania style of architecture—a two-storey building of log construction with clapboard exterior and plastered interior walls. A good stone-mason laid the foundation and a huge central fireplace to heat the whole house. The logs were notched to ensure that they interlocked tightly. A carpenter, Dan Zimmerman, made several corner cupboards.

In this house, Jacob and Elizabeth Fry raised twelve children, including Samuel and Barbara who assisted their father in the textile business, with Barbara being

\*The Twenty, or Twenty Mile Creek is named after the location, discharging into Lake Ontario roughly twenty miles along its southern shore from the mouth of the Niagara River. Starting all over again at Burlington Bay a second Sixteen Mile Creek occurs at Oakville, for instance.

the spinner, and Jacob and Samuel, the weavers. For many years, the family prospered in home and farm operations. They grew flax for the fibres used in spinning and weaving linen and raised sheep for the fleece used for spinning and weaving wool. In 1830, an addition, insulated with lightly fired brick, was required to accommodate the increase in orders for woven items. In 1836, at the age of 24, Samuel Fry started his own weaving business and presented his first coverlet woven in blue and yellow to his bride-to-be, Anna Nash. The Fry family also operated a prosperous cider mill in an outbuilding, as Jacob had planted an apple orchard bearing prime quality fruit. The cider enterprise continued for many years on the Fry farm.

By the time Samuel Fry died in 1881, the farmhouse needed many repairs. With the construction of a new house in 1890 by their family, the old log structure remained vacant for many years, except to house chickens! Then in the early 1940s, this dilapidated building with its huge central fireplace and two-storey design was recognized by The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario as an architectural treasure. In 1949, the Royal Ontario Museum assembled various memorabilia of Samuel Fry, including his woven coverlets saved by a granddaughter and grandson. These remain today as the Annie R. Fry Collection in Toronto.

In 1953, a museum was established at Jordan to house many artifacts found in Pennsylvania-German homes in the area. The moving force behind this project was Miss Ruth Home, connected with both The Architectural Conservancy and the Royal Ontario Museum. Through her efforts, the museum was organized as a joint project of the Village of Jordan and the Jordan Wine Company. The Jacob Fry House was then moved from its site on the escarpment above Vineland to museum property on the site of the former Mennonite church. The restored house is dedicated to the life and work of Samuel Fry, one of the first commercial weavers in the area. Inside the house, a spinning wheel and weaving looms, typical of those used by the Fry family, are on display. Some of Samuel Fry's weaving patterns and account books have been preserved

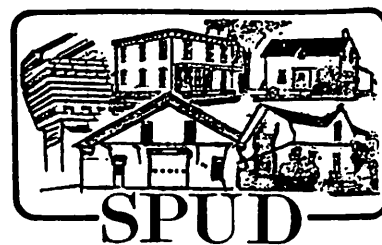
as well. The huge cider press dating from the 1830s is located on the lawn at the rear of Vintage House, the main building at the Jordan Historical Museum.

### Sources of information:

Talk researched by Eleanor Currie from the book by Barbara F. Coffman, *Samuel Fry the Weaver and Mennonites of the Twenty*. (Kitchener): The Pennsylvania-German Folklore Society of Ontario, c. 1982. Photos pp. 127, 229.

Burnham, Harold B. *Handweaving in Pioneer Canada*. Toronto: The Royal Ontario Museum, c. 1971.

Joyce Arndt, Branch Editor



S.P.U.D. logo: Society for the Preservation of Upper Doon.

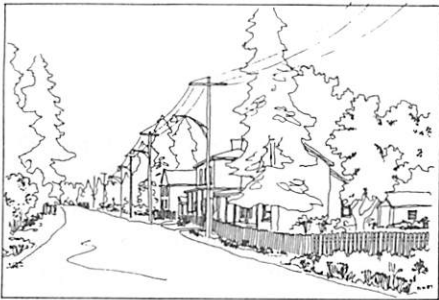
### S.P.U.D. — A success story!

Doon, a beautiful, scenic area that was once a village until it was incorporated into the City of Kitchener, has been threatened by subdivision development. The Doon Neighbourhood consists of approximately 47.4 hectares (117 acres) of land in the southern-most portion of the City of Kitchener and consists of 64 single detached residential dwellings, two row dwellings, each containing four units, and a multiple dwelling with four units. In addition, there is one church, a public elementary school, and a legal non-conforming warehouse with outdoor storage. Approximately 18 structures are of historical and/or architectural merit.

Secondary Planning in the Doon area began in 1975, but due to the need for a comprehensive investigation of the whole of the Schneider Creek, a temporary suspension was put in place until October 1982. At this time, a volunteer Neighbour-

hood Liaison Committee was formed under the name of S.P.U.D. or Society for the Preservation of Upper Doon. After further discussion, it was agreed that a Heritage Conservation District Plan would be prepared under the auspices of Kitchener L.A.C.A.C.

On May 26, 1986, City Council approved By-law 86-97, pursuant to the Ontario Heritage Act, which defined the Upper Doon Neighbourhood as an area to be examined as a Heritage Conservation District. Architect and Planner, Nicholas Hill, who is Past Chairman of The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, was retained as consultant in November 1986 and the Draft Upper Doon Heritage Conservation District Plan was tabled at L.A.C.A.C., pending further circulation on May 22, 1987. City Council, on May 25, 1987, approved the following resolution: "that Planning Staff be instructed to prepare the Secondary Plan, and Official Plan Amendments in accordance with the policies and directions of the Upper Doon Heritage Conservation District Plan."



Cover from Nicholas Hill's Heritage District Plan for Upper Doon.  
Courtesy City of Kitchener.

Three plans were prepared for the Upper Doon Neighbourhood and proposed to be considered by City Council concurrently. The purpose of these plans was as follows:

(a) Official Plan Amendments - will contain proposed land uses, provide broad direction on the conditions of future infill development, and redesignate Doon Village Road from a Secondary Collector to a Local Street.

(b) Secondary Plan - will specify permitted land uses, conditions of future infill development, parks and recreation facilities, municipal services, and the staging of transportation improvements. The specifics of land use and conditions of development will subsequently be implemented through amendment to the Zoning By-law.

(c) Heritage Plan - will specify historic and non-historic buildings, and the respective architectural and landscaping guidelines.

S.P.U.D. Executive were pleased with the plan and that Doon Village Road and Tilt Drive were to be redesignated from Collector Road status to Scenic Local Roads. Tilt Drive had been identified in the top 2% for scenic beauty of all roads in the Regional Municipality of Waterloo.

#### Another struggle . . . and victory!

Suddenly S.P.U.D. became aware that the plan for establishing Tilt Drive as a Scenic Local Road and preserving it as a local, narrow road had been altered. The

Planning Department had been swayed by a strong lobbying of developers to use Tilt Drive as a Collector Road. Once again, the members of S.P.U.D. mounted a plan to fight for their area. Dr. Roger Suffling, Associate Professor in the School of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Waterloo, chaired the "Scenic Road" study. They contacted Kitchener L.A.C.A.C. and The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario to speak on their behalf. Mrs. Joye Krauel, executive member of ACO-North Waterloo Region Branch and past chairman of the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation, was one who spoke on behalf of S.P.U.D. The discussion took place at the Planning Committee Meeting on December 7, 1987; after some deliberation, the Official Plan Amendment was approved to preserve Tilt Drive as a Scenic Local Road. The last hurdle was passed at the weekly City Council Meeting and S.P.U.D. members were elated. This is one of many occasions when mountains have been moved by the collaboration of our conservation groups!

Joye Krauel



Nicholas Hill's sketch of Tilt Drive in the Upper Doon Heritage District Plan.  
Courtesy City of Kitchener.

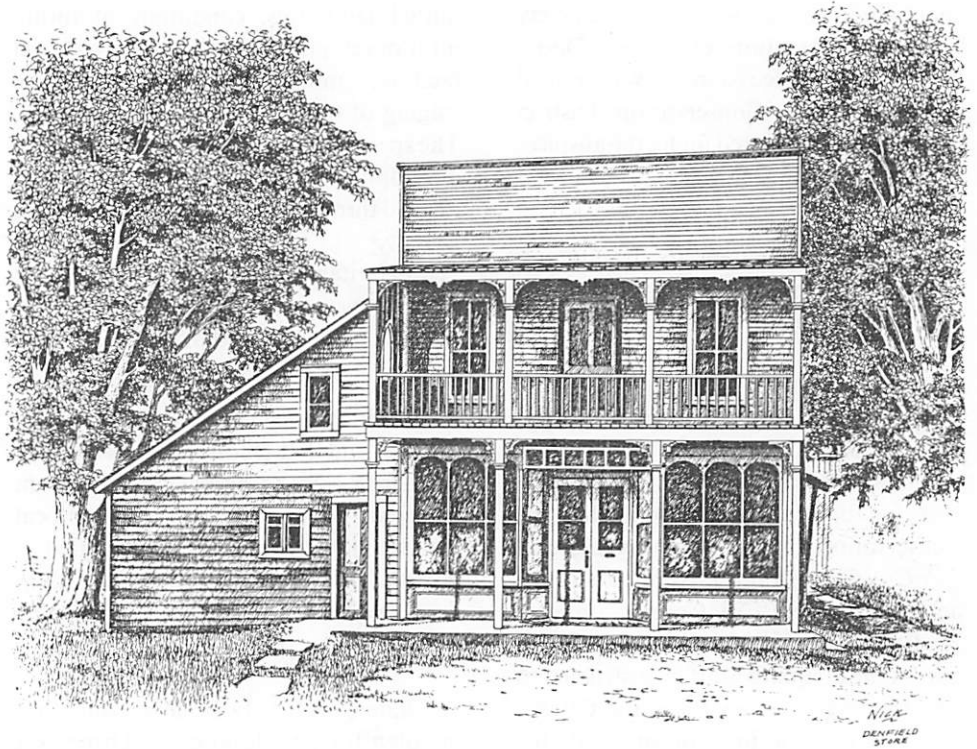


## LONDON REGION

### Local Developments

Admirers of London's older buildings continue to feel oppressed by the surge in development and the accompanying threats of demolition. Many people were shocked by what appeared to be the wholesale destruction of "Headley," the former residence of Sir Adam Beck. Sifton Properties had assured neighbours and concerned organizations that it intended to preserve the house, though the necessity of moving it several dozen feet to make room for modern condominiums would require taking the building down and building it up again. It has come as something of a disappointment to discover that the rebuilt structure will in fact be closer to a reproduction than a restoration: it is to be constructed of new bricks, roofed with new slates, and trimmed inside with original woodwork only at the new residents' requests. Two of London's other significant early buildings also face uncertain futures. The Western Hotel, since before 1843 a focal point at the bend in Richmond Street, has been purchased by Old Oak Investment Co. as part of the site for a major new commercial complex. "Thornwood," built in 1852 by Henry C.R. Becher, one of London's most prominent early citizens, is now the residence of prominent real estate figure Glen Wood. Wood is working on plans for developing the property; these may or may not involve the demolition of the historic house, but they will almost certainly alter its traditional setting.

Occasionally, though, one does get a glimpse of sunlight through these winter clouds. City council has actually appointed an alderman to encourage the restoration of store fronts according to the plans drawn up in a recently completed Façade Study, and it has allocated funds for interest-free loans available to merchants. The first downtown commercial building to be designated, now Ann McColl's Kitchen Shop, received that distinction during Heritage Week. Craig Scott is planning to restore the old Mechanics' Institute (designed by Thomas Tracy in 1876). And a recent poll, conducted by some members of the A.C.O. and some members of the Talbot Coalition, indicated that city council is generally more receptive



The Denfield General Store.

Sketch by Ron Nickles of Komoka based on a photograph taken about 1900. Reproduced by kind permission of the artist.

than before to the idea of encouraging the preservation of the Talbot Street block, although the intentions of the owner, Cambridge Leaseholds, Ltd., are still shrouded in mystery. While campaigning to save these city buildings, the London Branch has also taken an active interest in the fate of a building very different in character from the substantial and sophisticated buildings of London's commercial district: the Denfield General Store.

### The Denfield General Store

When the inhabitants of Denfield, a village a few miles northwest of London, decided to celebrate their history in 1977, they focussed their attention on what Carol Priamo, author of *The General Store*, described as "one of the most picturesque general stores in Ontario." Ms. Priamo quotes A.F. Freeborn, the son of a former owner: "Somehow the people (of Denfield) forgot to have a centennial for the town on its birthday so they used the birthday of the store as an excuse of a 'bash' . . . Unfortunately the old store was too old and too feeble to play an active part, but people did look at

it and recaptured a lot of memories of the past." The town had an interesting past to recapture. It had leapt to prosperity in 1875 when Denfield became a stop on the new London to Wingham railroad line: two hotels were built, and in 1877 a general store with aspirations towards elegance rose on the station road, across from one of the hotels. But Denfield's importance gradually declined over the following century. The hotels shut down, and after the railway closed in 1956, the general store followed suit. The post office, antique stores, and an art store have occupied the building since that time, but the "old and feeble" store has been empty now for several years, and it looked as if the store, like the station and hotels, was doomed to disintegrate into the flat, quiet countryside that now dominates the village.

The building had captured the affections of many passersby, however, and one of its admirers, John C. Johnson, decided to purchase the property and turn the old store into a home. Though the building's new use will require some internal adjustments, Johnson wished to restore the



front and the west side (the parts of the exterior most readily visible) to their Victorian appearance. He is being helped, in various ways, by the A.C.O. Johnson, who teaches automobile mechanics at the Salvation Army's House of Concord in London, is eager to do most of the work himself, but he recognizes the need for professional advice and for some additional revenue to cover the purchase of suitable materials. The Heritage Fund of the A.C.O. has granted a loan of \$6,000, subject to approval by appropriate agencies. Our own branch is donating up to \$900 more



Denfield Store today.

to contribute to the costs incurred in preparing drawings and specifications, and in gaining professional supervision and technical help, to be provided by architect Patrick Coles and draughtsman (and branch president) Herb Craig.

Like many village stores of the period, the Denfield General Store was built of wood, with a high false front, and a second story balcony that provided a porch for the upstairs living quarters. It also featured a number of less common details that reveal the builder's attempts at a kind of architectural *haute couture*. Instead of overlapping, the boards are laid flat and bevelled at the edges. Pierced spandrels originally adorned the bevelled posts. At times, the builder's aims apparently exceeded his grasp, as when the round-headed arches of the gallery windows, topped with a decorative keystone, inadvertently turned out to be pointed, or when a ground floor pilaster ended up resting partly on its base, and partly on the windowsill. When the building is repainted in its original colours (remnants of gold, dark red, and avocado green paint are still

evident in the sheltered panels of the ground floor façade), it will be a charming and striking example of the region's folk architecture.

### Coming Events

The spring promises a suitable climax to a year of interesting meetings. In addition to hosting the annual convention of the A.C.O., we are looking forward to two traditional local events, the joint meeting of the London Branch and the London Public Library, and the Geranium Walk. This year's speaker at the joint meeting, on May 3, will be Stephen Otto, who has recently provided a widely praised revision of Eric Arthur's important book about Toronto, *No Mean City*. Mr. Otto will be giving a slide lecture on that book, and also on his current project, a book containing historic illustrations of the whole province's architecture. Mike Baker and Blanche Jarman are coordinating this year's walk, which will be held in the Talbot Street neighbourhood on Sunday, June 5. Tickets can be obtained by writing us at P.O. Box 22, Station B, London, Ontario, N6A 4V3.

## HURON COUNTY

Concern still reigns about the implications of Heritage Conservation Districts, the town of Seaforth having elected to allow the demolition of a building on the main street near the western end of the designated area to facilitate the enlargement of a parking area for a local supermarket. The LACAC had objected, but was overruled by council, regrettably, hence a streetscape will be damaged. Why not retain the front as a screen to the less than historic spectacle of cars and parking spaces, façadism with a purpose!

News from Goderich includes attempts to promote the conservation of an historic Greek Revival house involving repairs to woodwork and repainting: more good news about this we hope to bring you in the next issue. But Goderich LACAC is getting tougher it seems, or is it single-minded, in dealing with projects in the Heritage Conservation District. Deviations from drawings as presented are no longer



109-111 Main Street, c. 1889, Seaforth, Ontario. Although within the Heritage Conservation District, Town Council has approved its demolition. Photograph by Tom Lenion

being accepted, and proposals as approved must conform to the letter. That is an excellent sign.

Bayfield, its summer resort function catering more and more visitors, is seeing a rapid expansion of its commercial facilities. Twelve new store units will be available this summer, some replacements of older buildings, one an undistinguished structure of the 1950s whose loss was not lamented. But as commerce grows, so does the need for parking while readily available parking space tends to shrink. People may be required to use their legs more, but from Niagara-on-the-Lake's

experience cars will gradually begin to clutter residential areas. However replacement buildings tend generally to be in sympathetic materials and forms, the Heritage Conservation District requirements being known to all who undertake projects there. There is a tendency, however, to be too lenient perhaps, and too compromising on details, so that the original effect is spoiled by modern substitutes. The old town hall is currently gaining interest in that a steering committee has been set up, separate from LACAC, to look into the possibility of obtaining financial help to undertake a

feasibility study and proceed ultimately with the conservation of that structure.

In Wingham the public library will shortly occupy new premises within an historic building long forgotten by many people, but of great importance in that community's past for it was the first town hall and a temperance hall too, though we suspect not simultaneously. The official opening is to be on 14 May 1988.

So much on behalf of our editor this time round, but this will have to serve until the next issue.

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## GENERAL CONSERVANCY NEWS

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### THE ADVISORY BOARD

The Advisory Board has been active of late on a number of projects including Marg Rowell's and Tony Butler's collaboration on the Victoria School problem, where an early twentieth century public school in the core area of Kitchener was threatened with closure and possible demolition. Kitchener City Council and the local Board of Education have been encouraged, with the help of the Advisory Board's report, to reconsider the question.

In Brantford, Carel Kippers was involved in a study of the Commercial Block, a fine multi-storey brick structure on Dalhousie Street and noted again its excellent candidacy for appropriate conservation. Long ago this was considered a vital part of the streetscape facing Market Square, former site of Brantford's old town hall and now occupied by the new Eaton Centre. A new owner, interested in tackling the Commercial Block's rehabilitation, seems to have been found.

Another study, undertaken by Spencer Higgins, involved the cobblestone wall in front of the Wolverton House in Paris and also noted comments on the stucco finish of the house and coachhouse. Using a format similar to the excellent Listed Buildings Survey of Britain, the report ensures full coverage of all salient concerns and provides a very useful document for future comparison and assessment. A similar outline is to be developed for

future guidance of Advisory Board members' reports.

Less formal and more varied were a number of short reports by Peter John Stokes from outlines on smaller Port Hope houses to a report on the masonry problems of St. Paul's Anglican Church, built in 1914, at Perrytown, and prominently sited on a drumlin of Hope Township for all the world to enjoy. However the fieldstone walls and the ornamentation of cast stone and concrete dressings are now in need of conservation. The exposed location of the church has probably contributed to the difficulty. One of the more interesting forays was made on behalf of S.O.S., Save Our Schools, set up by Mrs. Dianne Austin of Norland, Ontario fighting to retain, on behalf of local communities, the focal points of

several villages in the northern section of Victoria County where local roots are longer and stronger. The 1908 nucleus of Norland School was one of the most interesting architecturally and could be restored in the future despite modern frontal "improvements."

The Ministry of Transportation and Communications continues to seek the Advisory Board's help on assessing heritage implications of their highway improvement works, and some requests have been responded to. But it has become abundantly clear that one has to read the fine print of their proposals, or anticipate the worst, especially in their treatment of well-established communities, and even to read between the lines, for a recent drastic drainage scheme ripped up local roads in Port Hope and will likely affect many mature roadside trees.

So far, however, Ontario Hydro and Bell Telephone have not sought our help, and their swathes through the countryside are devastating on occasion. It seems these authorities take the law into their own hands, the recent ruthless trimming back of the pinery behind Wesleyville Church being one example.

Mrs. A.K. Sculthorpe as chairman and Mrs. Ann Moffet as Co-chairman of the Advisory Board continue to welcome requests for assistance and wait only for a call or a letter to have Board members go out, investigate and report.



S.S. No. 1, Laxton, 1908, the public school at Norland in northern Victoria County.  
P.J.S. Photograph.

## AROUND AND ABOUT ONTARIO

### Peterborough

After PACAC recommended that Cox's Terrace of 1884 on Rubidge Street be designated under the Ontario Heritage Act as a building of historical interest and architectural merit, the City Council agreed to do so with only one dissenting vote, a major change in opinion based on strong support being expressed at the meeting. The A.C.O. participated in being able to present its case in favour of such a move. Regrettably the owner of the property, who is the landlord of the terrace of seven dwellings, was not able to be present, otherwise he would have heard the favourable response. Built by a well-known entrepreneur who owned a considerable amount of property in Peterborough during his lifetime, as well as being a prominent local businessman and mayor of Peterborough, it has remained in single ownership since so that its common maintenance has secured the building over the years. It was acquired by Mr. Comstock as a place for the expansion for his neighbouring funeral home, from which business he has retired recently, and in his hands it has continued to be an attractive and handsome building. It has been little changed over the years, only the front verandahs have been modified, believed to have been done in Edwardian times, and small additions made behind from time to time.

Later on a panel discussion was held at the local library concerning the building, its merit and the reasons for its importance to the Peterborough scene. The meeting was well attended; chaired by Alan Brunger, presentations by Helen Weddell, a board member of the Peterborough Historical Society and grand-daughter of the terrace's builder, Martha Kidd, well-known conservation consultant and former chairman of PACAC, Professor Elwood Jones of Trent University who crammed his prepared 50-minute lecture about Cox, the man, into less than a quarter of an hour, and Peter John Stokes speaking briefly on comparative material and the superior claim of Peterborough's terrace, helped create a lively and informative evening seemingly enjoyed by everyone



Cox's Terrace, Peterborough

P.J.S. photograph

there. The meeting continued as questions, comments and answers bounced back and forth. Perhaps now the handsome composition known as Cox's Terrace, seen as one approaches the city centre from the west a short distance along Rubidge Street to the left, is recognized by more people as one of Peterborough's architectural landmarks.

### St. Thomas

The City of St. Thomas has recently appointed a LACAC, its first chairman being Bill Haight, one of the supporters and hard workers for the conservation of the old church of St. Thomas. Their first task will be to make an inventory of the city with a view to establishing a list of buildings important historically and architecturally.

This latest activity was sparked by the sale to private interests of the Elgin County Courthouse, the focus of an older residential section of considerable architectural merit, and in our view worthy of consideration as a Heritage Conservation District.

### Sharon

The York Pioneer and Historical Society, for over seventy years in possession of the Sharon Temple, that marvellous timber religious edifice in the northern part of York County, has through its Sharon Temple Committee requested proposals for a Master Plan for this

historic site. The terms of reference might be considered somewhat daunting by some, requiring a very well organized team of compatible experts to develop not only a concept for the general site, but also ideas for further improvement and new structures to complement future interpretation of the site. The Master Plan sought is to be a comprehensive document to include references to other authorities working in the area and new developments locally likely to impinge on the Temple site. It will be no mean task to fill the bill. Incidentally no budget figure was noted although a detailed cost breakdown was requested, possibly advisedly, taking into account the scope of the program outlined in the terms of reference. Proposals were to be submitted by 31 March, 1988.

### Vernonville

This hamlet, on the Shelter Valley Road wandering across the country from just east of Grafton towards Castleton, is one of those delightful settlements hidden off the over-beaten track. Obviously once more prosperous than now, as the centre of a rural and farming community, it still boasts a corner store. The hamlet extends in a street off the main cross roads, and on a corner stands the old red brick one-room schoolhouse, now the local community centre. Behind, set against a wooded hill studded with white pines, is the frame church of St. Andrew, still with its tower and steeple proudly borne, the marble datestone over the door proclaiming it to have been built in 1862. Above a wee painted clock face, the figures in a fine Roman numeral reminiscent of an old-fashioned turnip watch, has "hands" set at half-past two: was this the time of its commemorative opening.

The church appears to have had few external changes although the pointed windows now have sash with narrow coloured side panes comparable to the Edwardian improvement to Wesleyville church in Hope Township. We wonder how much it is used today, for though not entirely neglected it seems to need a little attention. This charming landmark should





St. Andrew's Church 1862, Vernonville, Haldimand Township, Northumberland County.  
P.J.S. photograph 1988

pital most of the buildings are from about the time of the present administration building and its neighbour dated 1916. The site is a large lakeside property with individual structures set apart, many widely spaced and grouped more or less facing or backing on to a large central space where there are a few of the more special buildings, obviously serving the "community" as a whole. Some sixteen or so, called "cottages", follow a particular pattern, in the Federal English Domestic style reminiscent of early twentieth century Dominion Government architecture which is remembered for some Experimental Farm buildings in Ottawa and the earlier barracks buildings on the Trenton base.

There are, however, also larger structures, some extended more recently by the provincial Government which converted the facility to its present use and these include the additions to one original building for the care of older people. One of the most interesting is a Hänsel and Gretel structure looking like a large wedge of cheese rocking on its rind with no fewer than four of its five storeys contained within its steep gable roof! This was used in more recent times as a library, but has been boarded up and abandoned. Most of the remaining structures are still in use although one wonders about the facility's functional efficiency. All the older buildings have some architectural interest. The general theme is pale yellow stucco ornamented with red-brown rug brick. Even the boiler house has merit, a crisp design in stucco banded with brown tile. Odd where architecture may lurk: we commend the Provincial Government for considering its value.

be preserved, not only for itself but also for its incomparable setting, thus to continue to honour the community it adorns.

#### **Whitby**

The Ontario Government has called for a study of the Whitby Psychiatric Centre concentrating on the determination of its future direction. Interestingly enough the

terms of reference for the study noted a concern for the heritage value of the older structures of this sprawling complex.

You may wonder if anything of architectural significance exists on the site, but its history, and the expression of its period, are noteworthy. Originally constructed as a wartime convalescent hos-

## **POT-POURRI**

### **News from other Associations**

#### **Heritage Canada Seeks New Direction**

Heritage Canada Conference  
Report by Margaret Goodbody, Heritage  
Cambridge  
Sept. 24-27, 1987  
Quebec City

The newly formulated mission statement of the Heritage Canada Foundation is as follows:

"To support a national movement for the maintenance of our sense of place and our sense of continuity.  
We do this by promoting the col-

laborative management of change in our physical and ethnological environment through networking, demonstration projects and marketing."

In the Executive Director's report, this was explained and amplified as follows:

by "support" is implied also "provide leadership;" by "continuity," "looking forward," not just preserving the past; by "sense of place," the great mass of building characteristic of a community; by "ethnological environment" is expressed the hope that by respecting the rights and cultures of each ethnic group we will gain their support for our institutions.

The three-pronged attack of networking, marketing and demonstration projects is a strategy which emerged from a study produced by the Saint John Task Force in 1986. The aim is to "involve as many people as possible in the management of change and to harmonize the participation of government, business and the public."

**Networking** is meant to strengthen ties between a wide range of heritage and other interest groups and to exert influence on government.

**Marketing** includes publication initiatives such as improving the circulation of the Heritage Canada magazine; merchandizing, in the National Trust mode; travel tours, meetings and seminars.

**Demonstration Projects** refers mainly to the Main Street Canada Program which now has 52 projects to its credit, and the newly created Regional Tourism Program, set up in a similar way with regional coordination on three-year contracts.

We were also informed that the **Architectural Conservation Services** program would be scaled down because of the cost.

#### **The Annual General Meeting**

Three new governors were elected: Robert L. Boyce, Architect, for New Brunswick; Kate Waygood, City Alderman, for Saskatchewan; Brian A. Gillis, Architect, elected by acclamation as governor for Prince Edward Island.

The most important business transacted at the A.G.M. was the passing of a resolution requiring that motions of national importance be submitted some time in advance of the A.G.M. so that members can be notified. Motions of lesser importance will still be accepted from the floor, or at least by 5 p.m. on the eve of the A.G.M.

The CONFERENCE theme was "Heritage Tourism" and the keynote speaker was Prof. Marc Laplante followed by Paul-Louis Martin, President of La Commission des biens culturels du Québec. The delegates were then split into separate groups and taken on guided tours of the city and its environs. The next morning there was a debriefing session for each group and the summarized comments from these were compiled and reported by a Rapporteur Général at the close of the conference. Successful heritage tourism was viewed as being composed of these key elements: partnership of a number of interest groups, authenticity of experience, combination of urban and rural experience, control of development, person-to-person contact, consideration of the rights of the visited. Model projects must demonstrate the value of heritage tourism.

**THE BANQUEST and AWARDS** Presentation took place Saturday evening at the Château Frontenac. The Montreal Trust - Credit Foncier Grand Prize winning project was:

Monastre du Bon Pasteur, Montreal  
Vianney Bélanger, Architect

The Honorable Mention projects were:

Founders' Square, Halifax  
Duffus, Romans, Kundzins and Roursfell  
Ltd., Architects

Gillespie House, Montreal  
Julia Gersovitz, architect

Johnson and Johnson, Head Office,  
Montreal

Dayouette, Saia et Associés, Architects

The Lieutenant-Governor's Medal was won by:

Michael Fish,  
Architect, Montreal

#### **Buildings Revival Coalition Breakthrough**

The Report of the Parliamentary Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs was tabled in the House of Commons on November 16, 1987. The Buildings Revival Coalition is jubilant that the Parliamentary Committee not only recognized its case, but devoted one entire recommendation

out of the 81 to a call for action in this matter. It reads:

48. That while the White Paper proposals requiring the reduction in the rate of capital cost allowance for buildings from 5 per cent to 4 per cent should be adopted, an assessment should be made by the Department of finance to determine whether a preferential rate of capital cost allowance should be available to taxpayers who renovate buildings that are over 50 years old.

Currently the Department of Finance does not support tax-based methods to encourage building renovation. The political decision-makers have made their views known, and the onus is now on the Department of Finance to take action.

The Buildings Revival Coalition will be monitoring the situation closely. The Coalition members deeply appreciate the support already received from heritage groups, individuals, agencies, and all other sources. **The letters and representations have made the difference.**

For further information, contact: Doug Franklin, The Heritage Canada Foundation, P.O. Box 1358, Stn. B, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5R4, (613) 237-1066.

Reprinted courtesy The Heritage Canada Foundation.

#### **News of Interest to ACO Members from Nicholas Hill**

Our immediate Past President reports from his new stand, Saint John, New Brunswick. Now Heritage Planner for that city he sent an interesting introduction to The Trinity Royal Preservation Area set up in the South End under the province's Municipal Heritage Preservation Act, proclaimed in 1978. The City Council must appoint a Preservation Review Board to investigate and advise Council on the enactment of by-laws and the designation of preservation areas: this Saint John established in December, 1979.

We hope to bring you more of the detail in a later issue.

#### **Of Painters and Grainers**

It is always heartwarming to learn of specialists in any field of conservation and so often we do not share our fortune. So

here we try to redress that omission.

For many years Sid Bell of Richmond Hill, a Scot who once worked with the well-known and respected firm of Brankston, employed on the restoration of the Grange in Toronto, has given noble service as a painter and grainer. After proving his ability on that project he was engaged later by the Carleton County Historical Society Inc. to calcimine the walls of the main courtroom to the old courthouse at Upper Woodstock in New Brunswick, as well as to grain the gallery columns and courtroom furnishings. He can be reached at home (416-884-2757).

Just recently we had a call from a Mr. Luigi Rossi with the most unlikely Scot's burr. Mr. Rossi hails from RR3 Havelock, K0L 1Z0, telephone 705-778-3225. He is a painter and decorator trained in Scotland and specializes in graining and marbling among other accomplishments, and is also a secondary school teacher of decorating arts. So intrigued were we with the unlikely combination of the burr and the name: it reminded us of a recently published account in one English magazine about the nineteenth century immigration into various British cities of Italians who set up ice-cream businesses, principally to serve the growing urban populace, and made a handsome living by it. So did Mr. Rossi's grandfather it appears, his father however taking on the painting trade, his son following suit and then emigrating to Canada. Strange who hails from Havelock: Luigi Rossi has special skills and will travel.

#### **Fred Henry (1865-1929)**

Mr. Charles Addington of London, Ontario, forwards the following intelligence regarding the architect, Fred Henry, concerning his brief sojourn in New York, 1888-89:

"In this issue is published the card of Mr. Fred Henry, who has started business as an architect in the rooms occupied by the late Geo. F. Durand. Mr. Henry was a student of the above-mentioned gentleman, subsequently occupying the position of assistant engineer, which office he resigned in 1888 to accept a position in the office of J.C. Cady & Co., architects, New York, returning to be assistant to Mr.

Geo. F. Durand, which office he held until the death of that gentleman. His many friends join in wishing Mr. Henry success." London, Ont. *Advertiser* - 19 Feb. 1890

#### **Henry Yates, 1820-1896**

After a most enjoyable meeting and discussion of railroads, among other subjects, a letter came to us from Henry B. Yates of Montreal who wrote about his great-grandfather, Henry Yates (1820-1896), the railroad contractor who built Wynarden, a splendid Gothic Revival pile of 1864 in Brantford, Ontario. The exterior of the building has been largely restored in recent years by the present owners, the Talos family. But what fascinated us was an enclosure sent by Mr. Yates of a copy of a speech by his great-grandfather delivered to the annual meeting of the shareholders of the Bank of Montreal held June 1st, 1888. It is full of wit and humour, referring to the questionable wisdom of having a railwayman as a bank director since such were so often the archetypal spender, hence quite opposite to the bank's prime endeavour, while twitting them quite roundly for the ostentations splendour of one of their newer branch banks, we believe referring to that still standing on the north-west corner of Yonge and Front in Toronto constructed in 1885. More about this fascinating man when we take on the subject of railway architecture, for we believe we know where some of Yates's work survives.

#### **Helpful Hints:**

##### **Roofing with Wood Shingles or Shakes**

There are a few pointers which may be of help in guiding roofers to do the proper job with wooden shingles or shakes. These are based mainly on sound practice and experience with thoroughly satisfactory older methods.

First let's discuss the materials involved. Shingles refer to the sawn, tapered variety now usually cedar, either the eastern white variety or more commonly the B.C. red cedar. These should be of the highest quality for roofs, that is clear or free from knots, principally heartwood and edge-gained. Eastern white cedar shingles, still obtainable from Quebec, the Maritimes

and parts of Southern Ontario are harder to find in roofing quality stock. The B.C. red cedar shingle should not be less than Certigrade 5X, Blue Label, either in the standard length of 16" or as "Royals", 24" long. "Shake" is now a term used to describe any shingle split and may include hand-made tapersplit shakes or square-split material resawn diagonally across the thickness to produce two pieces with a heavier butt at one end and with a hand-split face and sawn back. Hand-split resawn material is not suitable for restorations, being too uneven to make a good roof and creating a far too rustic appearance.

Originally most early shingles in Upper Canada were of white pine, split into very thin, wide pieces, normally about 18" long, although 24" shingles are known and were found under the later verandah roof of Willard's Hotel in Upper Canada Village. These shingles were always carefully shaved where they were not exposed to the weather so that they would nest closely for a tighter roof. The naturally split section left the parallel longitudinal cellular structure of the wood intact thus making it more weatherproof. Hand-split pine shingles can still be made where first-growth pine may still be cut and expense is less of an object than authenticity as in the case of new wall shingles for an early nineteenth century house being restored for the Carleton County Historical Society in Upper Woodstock, New Brunswick. The handmade tapersplit red cedar "shake" is the closest most of us can come to the original material. However 18" usually has to be obtained on special order in large quantities, the 24" normally being more readily available. Several B.C. mills still produce these, but sample bundles should be obtained to check on quality, not only of the wood, but also for evenness in thickness of butts and straightness of shakes as well as the widths, with not too great a proportion of narrow pieces hard to break joints with when roofing.

There is one catch, however, in ordering shakes from B.C. where the exposure permitted is more than that for a three-ply roof, the minimum to be considered in Southern Ontario and the eastern part of Canada. Thus some 25% or more should be added to the order to make up for the



deficiency. The normal exposure to the weather for a three-ply roof is the length of the shingle less 1" divided by three so that an 18" shake should be exposed some 5 5/8" as a maximum, a 24" shake some 7 5/8".

In the case of sawn shingles, however, the bundles are usually calculated to serve a three-ply roof and are normally quoted as so many bundles to the square or 100 square feet of roof surface.

However, three-ply roofs are good for roof pitches of 5 in 12 (a rise of 5 in length of 12) and up, but four-ply roofs are advisable for anything less than 5 in 12 down to 3 in 12, below which an alternative roof covering should be sought.

lessons. First the ideal roof construction is represented by the Mennonite tradition where open batten roofs comprising narrow boards centred to the shingle exposure allowed space between to ventilate and dry the shingles. For if you have ever been below a shingle roof after a pronounced dry spell you may have noticed that the underside of the shingles may be distinctly damp as the rain is absorbed through the surface. Once they are saturated they shed the water on the upper surface. So staining on the underside of a shingle roof does not necessarily indicate leaking. But if the shingle remains moist, and if not allowed to dry thoroughly, decay tends to ensue. Hence the tighter the board decking the less the ventilation

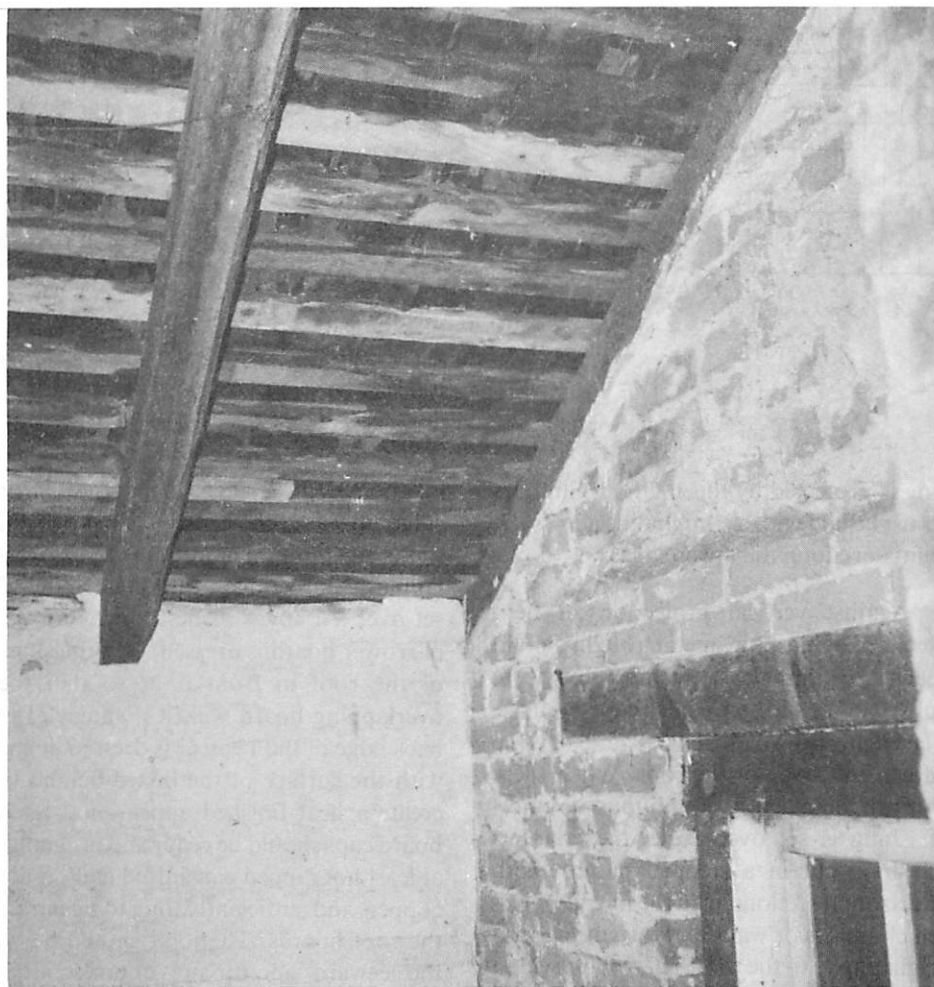
satisfactory sheathing.

Further precautions are advisable, some from historical precedent, others modern improvements. But first a caution about the selection of roofing: choose the best quality and with shakes particularly avoid the resawn split type which permit rough, uneven split surfaces and wide variations in thickness which prevent a tight roof from being laid, the probable excuse for an inter-layer of building felt between courses. As noted above nothing should be set between shingles to inhibit ventilation or to hold moisture, and interlayers of building felt or paper do just that. Rather choose a better quality shingle or shake which will nest more tightly. (This recommendation goes against current Ontario Building Code requirements which are deemed contrary to proper conservation practices. Some LACACs will not approve shingle roofs laid with these interlayers.)

One of the first jobs is to protect the eaves, verges and vertical surfaces which protrude through roofs. Usually a starter strip of metal, preferably copper, with a folded drip edge, is set along eaves. Along verges fasten a featherboard, a board tapered from a butt thickness of 5/8" to 3/4" to a wafer edge and some 8" or thereabouts wide. The thicker butt is put along the outer edge of the roof, usually projecting 1/2" more or less over the crown mould. This will tip the shingles along the edge towards the centre of the roof thus deflecting rainwater away from the verge mouldings preventing staining, paint deterioration and decay of this decorative woodwork. A similar detail against vertical projections such as chimneys or parapets will again direct water towards the centre of the roof.

Valley and vertical flashings including counterflashings should be of copper secured with copper fastenings, or alternatively zinc. Well laid wood shingle roofs will usually outlive galvanized steel, hence copper is preferred. Copper can be hard or soft copper, the former preferred for straight work.

Nails for shingling now commonly used are the hot-dipped galvanized, spiral type of sufficient length to penetrate the shingles and at least 3/4" into the roof



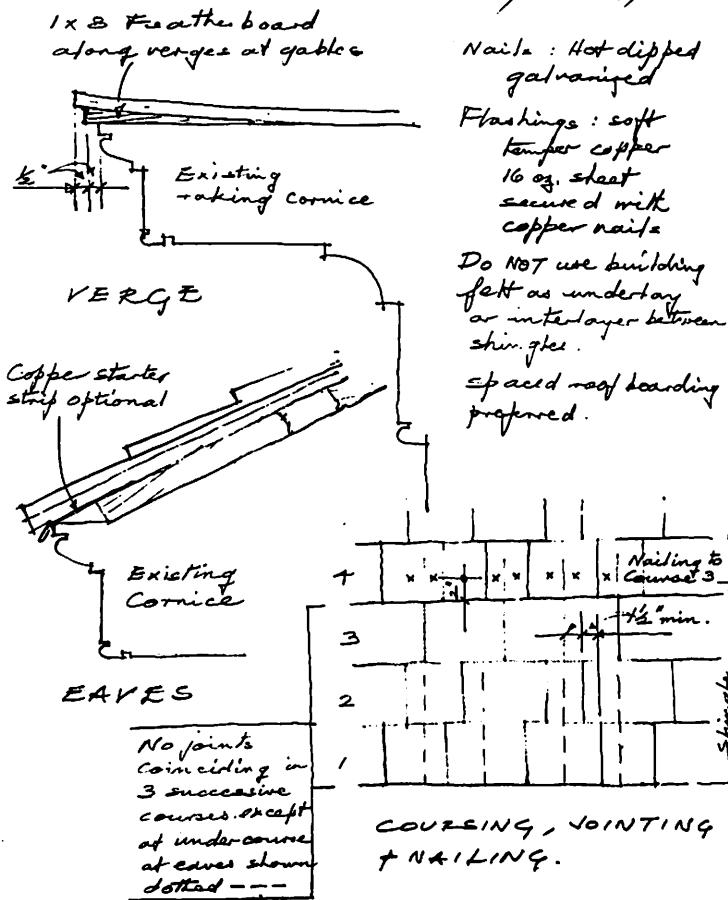
Mennonite slat roof; the Wissler/Cascaden House, 1842, Waterloo, Ontario.  
Photograph courtesy Michael Bird.

Next let us consider the base for the roof, the sheathing to which the shingles or shakes are to be attached. Here history and experience can teach us valuable

and the greater chance for decay. So old roofs, if not of the mennonite slat type, were often sheathed in boards 'live-sawn', that is rough-edged, sawn straight from the tree without edges trimmed. The spaces between favoured the ventilation necessary. Plywood therefore is the least

## SHINGLE & SHAKE ROOFING. Recommended DETAILS - 1.

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Recommended details for shingles and shake roofing: eaves, verge, coursing, jointing and nailing.

boards. Two nails are used in each shingle set approximately 1" in from the edge of the shingle and 1" to 2" above the next shingle course for protection from the weather. The eaves should be started by a double course or thickness of shingles, the joints staggered at least 1/2". A board or chalk line can be used as a guide to the succeeding course, set at the proper exposure for a three-ply or four-ply roof as required. Sides of shingles or shakes should be at right angles to the butts or lower edges. Shingles should be spaced slightly, say up to 3/16", if laid dry, 1/8" if damp dry to allow for swelling when wet.

It is essential to break the joints in every three consecutive courses, not just in alternate courses, to maintain a weather-tight roof. Joints should be staggered 1/2" more or less with not less than 1/4" permitted. For it can be imagined that if an intermediate shingle splits or is cracked accidentally the integrity of the roof cover-

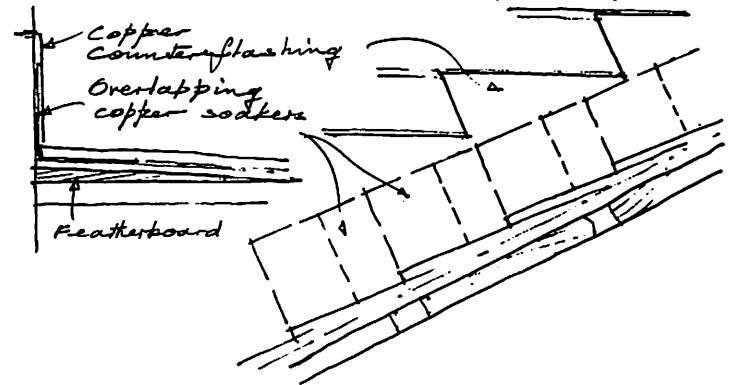
ing is protected by this method. Shingles must be laid with a straight line across the butts or along the lower edge.

Against vertical projections a bent section of flashing metal roughly 4" in each direction at least the shingle exposure plus 1/2" is set between shingle courses. These are known as "soakers" and overlap down the slope of the roof. When these are all in place a continuous counter-flashing is set over these, the counter-flashing cut in a stepped pattern with horizontal sections let in the mortar joints of chimneys or walls and the cut made at right angles to the roof. This will provide a watertight, trouble-free flashing as opposed to the common and inferior modern practice of setting a strip flashing against the vertical surface and relying on caulking to keep it weatherproof.

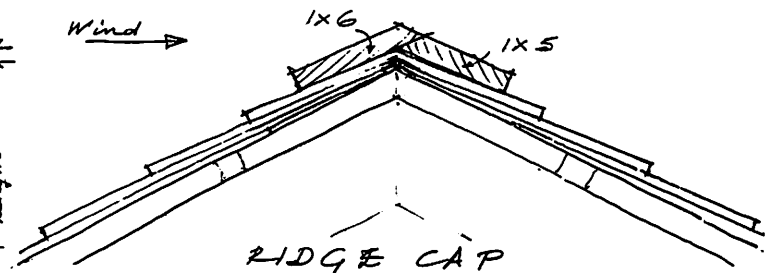
At hips or ridges some people prefer to finish these in shingles laid to overlap as

## SHINGLE & SHAKE ROOFING Recommended DETAILS - 2.

Mc/CAA 4/87



FLASHING at VERTICAL SURFACES



Shingle and shake roofing: recommended details for flashings and ridge.

Peter John Stokes, Consulting Restoration Architect.

on the roof in a so-called Boston hip or ridge. Just as common, much easier to do, therefore more economical, is an overlapping board ridge of nominal 1" by 6" set over a 1" by 5". The top edge of the narrower board is dressed to fit the slope of the roof in front of it so that the overlapping board will fit it snugly. The back edge of the 1" by 6" is dressed in line with the surface of the board behind to create a neat finished appearance. Such board caps should be cedar and fastenings at least hot dipped galvanized nails, if not copper, and sufficiently long to penetrate the roof boards. The joint should be on the leeward side for maximum weather protection.

You may ask about further measures to prolong the life of a wood shingle or shake roof. However extreme care must be taken in selecting the chemicals used as some are relatively toxic thereby hazardous to apply and by their nature may be

somewhat detrimental to the immediate environment. If such more dangerous chemicals are used, protective clothing is advisable during application or treatment, ventilation essential and the risk of pollution due to spillage or leaching must be minimal. The last becomes critical if roof water is allowed to spill on the ground or is used to replenish soft water cisterns, but it can also pollute storm drainage normally discharging, untreated, into natural water courses. Should this not pose a problem then the best treatment is full dipping of the shingles in a preservative bath and then setting these aside on the edge of the dipping tank to drain off and dry. With so much warning you may wish to beg off the process. Incidentally you should expect a much slower weathering effect if preservative is used and the roof will look raw and new for a longer period but will eventually turn a silver and then a darker grey.

Alternatively you can apply the preservative or other preservative-type shingle stains, the latter providing the opportunity for colour which may be deemed appropriate, after the roof has been finished. This is better than nothing but does not provide full protection for the Achilles heel of this method is that the preservative cannot penetrate easily beyond the outer surface to which it is applied and the most vulnerable spot is where the shingles overlap and the drip from one course to the next is most severe. Pigmented stains may build up a ridge to cause moisture to back up under the shingles too.

The fire-retardancy of shingles can also be improved substantially by applying fire-retardant chemicals in solution, either by the full dip method or by a surface treatment of the finished roof. A better precaution is to make sure that the chimneys are built high enough, provided with spark arrestors if necessary and are kept clean to lessen the chance of flue fires. It may be of interest to recall the historic method of fireproofing, often required in cities and practised originally in the rebuilding of Bellamy's Mill at North Augusta when the steam-house was added to it, namely to lay the shingles on a thin bed of lime mortar applied over the roof deck, the mortar serving as a fire stop. Sometimes it appears shingles were laid also with lime mortar between courses,

probably using a haired lime mortar like rough plaster. You may wonder, after all our cautioning against restricting ventilation below wood shingles, whether this was a good practice, but lime when moistened tends to have a disinfecting effect thus helping to prevent decay. Have you ever noticed, for instance, that a wood-shingled roof below the drip of a chimney stack seems much cleaner and better preserved? Chances are that the slightly alkaline wash from the mortar has contributed to this.

Wood shingle or shake roofs do suffer, however, from one other problem, especially where shaded or overhung by trees, namely the accumulation of moss and lichens. Low-pitched roofs are even more susceptible to this problem because slow run-off maintains ideal conditions for moss growth. Wherever feasible overhanging trees should be cut back, but this may not always be acceptable. Frequent removal of moss accumulations is necessary for they aggravate the decay of the wood shingle being themselves moisture-retentive. Various proprietary "moss poisons" in the form of chemical soaps are available, but again caution is recommended where the roof water is used or discharges over the ground where it might affect wells or planting. Perhaps another safer way is to sprinkle a light dusting of agricultural lime over the surface each time the moss is removed to help neutralize the acid conditions that mosses promote and thrive on, and remembering the lesson of the chimney wash referred to earlier. Strips of zinc inserted in the roof, where the rain will wash over them, are stated to be a preventive also.

Peter John Stokes

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## COMING EVENTS

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May 13, 14, 15, 1988  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of  
The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario  
Inc. at London, Ontario.

May 14, 1988, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Elora. Historic Elora House Tour  
Tickets \$10.00 available from:

Three Centuries Festival Guild  
43 Henderson Street, P.O. Box 990,  
Elora, Ontario. N0B 1S0.  
Phone: 519-846-0331.

June 8-11, 1988

Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario:

**FUTURE DIRECTIONS**

1988 LACAC Conference

Holiday Inn Convention Centre (also  
host hotel)

Registration \$60.00 before 6 May 1988,  
\$10.00 extra for late registration.

For further information contact:

Gayle Shelleau

Conference Coordinator

c/o P.O. Box 580,

Sault Ste Marie, Ontario. P6A 5N1.

Phone 705-759-5315.

June 12, 1988, 1 to 5:30 p.m.

Historic House Tour sponsored by Heri-  
tage Etobicoke Foundation

Tickets \$12.00 with refreshments

Available c/o City of Etobicoke

City Clerk's Department,

399 The West Mall

Etobicoke, Ontario. M9C 2Y2.

Phone 416-741-3356 Diana Sythes

416-621-4952 Mary Magill

October 20, 21, & 22, 1988

Montreal, Méridien Hotel

National bilingual congress on the  
evolution of teaching, research and practice  
in architecture, landscape architecture,  
urban planning, industrial design and  
other related fields, this to be mounted by  
La Faculté de l'aménagement de l'Univer-  
sité de Montréal (Faculty of Environ-  
mental Design, University of Montreal)  
to celebrate its 20th anniversary. Under  
the general theme of VISION/88/-  
ACTION the meetings are to take stock  
of new developments in the environmental  
design disciplines and one subject on  
which papers were requested was entitled  
**Environmental design and conservation.**

## Publications of Interest

*By Lake and Lock, A Guide to Historical  
Sites and Tours of the City and County of  
Peterborough.*

Editor: Alan Brunger, 1987, Heritage  
Peterborough

Here is a particularly interesting guide  
book to the points of historical and  
architectural interest in the Peterborough  
region with useful inset maps, and delight-  
ful sketches, as well as a bibliography and  
index. This neat, compact production is a  
very handy booklet for anyone wishing to  
explore the area and learn more about its  
buildings and history.



